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REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

The History of the Hebrew Commonwealth, from the earliest Times to the Destruction of Jerusalem. From the German of John Jahn, D.D.; with a Continuation to the Time of Adrian. 2 vols. 8vo. London, 1829. Hurst, Chance, and Co.

It is seldom the case that knowledge in a country makes equal progress with theory and invention. A learned visionary is among the anomalies of human character. The light which springs up in the mind, and results from its own supposed energy of perception, is generally too vivid for the steadier but less dazzling light of knowledge: it keeps burning without imposing upon us the labour of seeking for fresh oil; and whenever it does go out, most commonly leaves us indifferent whether we walk in light or in darkness. But Germany, and German poets, philosophers, and divines, offer a singular exception to this observation. In their case, the boldest theorist is the profoundest scholar; the quickest imagination is coupled with the most industrious application; and the bright and splendid fancies of poetry are made the covering and the emblazonry of heavy folios of metaphysics and antiquities. No department of German literature affords a stronger illustration of this fact than the different branches of its theology. Far as the divines of this country have ventured into the deep sea of mysticism—wild as have been the theories of some, and the interpretations of others—they can be charged at no time with a want of research. The errors into which they have fallen, have been encountered while in the stern and patient inquiry after truth. Their distinguished men have in scarcely an instance become so without having spent years in hardy toil, as well as having manifested originality of intellect. The consequence of all this has been, that theology is pursued in Germany as a science, which it is not at present in hardly any other country; that the greatest men have shewn themselves awake to its different topics; and that whenever the opposite and equally indefensible errors of rationalism and mysticism are removed, there will be a ground for religious feeling to work on, a strong-hold for its defence amid those who are best able to defend it.

Professor Jahn is esteemed in Germany as a highly eminent Biblical scholar. His several philological works on the Arabic and Hebrew languages have been long celebrated there; but the production for which he is best known in this country is his *Archœologia Biblica*, a work which has obtained the approbation of some of the most learned of our own theologians. It is divided into three parts, treating respectively of the domestic, political, and ecclesiastical antiquities of the Jewish nation; and is esteemed one of the best books on the subject which could be put into the hands of the student or the general reader.

The work at present before us appears to have been written as a companion to the one we have been mentioning, and, together with

that, gives a complete view of the extraordinary nation of which it treats. The retrospect which it enables us to take of those ages, each year of which was as a visible footstep of the Almighty on the great abyss of futurity, is full of deep and thrilling interest,—not various, perhaps, as that attaching to the history of other nations; but solemn and impressive, filling the mind, independent of its religious regards, with a vague but irresistible awe,—an awe which infidels have acknowledged themselves unable to overcome.

We cannot do better with these excellent volumes than give one or two of the striking facts which are interwoven with the discussions on the more abstruse parts of Jewish history. They will serve to shew how important a part of ancient history is that of Judea. The commencement of Alexander's connexion with the Jews is thus related:

"That Alexander, when he invaded Syria, summoned all the cities in that region to surrender, to pay to him their usual tribute, and to furnish his army with provisions, is in itself very probable. Josephus testifies, that during the siege of Tyre, a written order of this kind came to Jerusalem, directed by Alexander to the high priest Jaddua, as the chief magistrate of the nation. Jaddua returned answer, that he had sworn fealty to Darius, and could not violate his oath so long as that prince was living. Alexander, naturally of a furious and impetuous temper, was highly irritated by this reply, and threatened that as soon as he had completed the conquest of Tyre, he would, by the punishment of the Jewish high priest, teach all others to whom they must keep their oaths. After the reduction of Gaza, B. C. 332, Alexander proceeded towards Jerusalem. Jaddua and all the citizens were thrown into the greatest consternation; they offered many sacrifices, and earnestly entreated God for deliverance. Josephus farther relates, that God then appeared to the high priest in a dream, bade him be of good courage, to adorn the city in the most magnificent manner he was able, and to go out fearlessly and meet the conqueror, arrayed in his official robes, attended by the other priests in their sacerdotal garments, and by the citizens clothed in white. Every thing was done according to these directions. The solemn procession advanced as far as the hill Sapha, which overlooks Jerusalem, and commands an extensive prospect of the country. As Alexander approached and saw Jaddua in the robes of his office, he went forward alone towards the high priest, adored the name of God, which was engraved on the golden frontal-plate of his turban, and then saluted Jaddua. Immediately the priests and citizens surrounded the king and welcomed him with joyful acclamations. All the Greeks were astonished at the conduct of Alexander; and Parmenio asked him how it happened that he, to whom all others did homage, should now himself do homage to the high priest of the Jews. Alexander replied: 'I did not adore the man, but that God who hath honoured him with the

priesthood: for I saw this very person in a dream, and clothed in this same habit, when I was at Dios in Macedonia. I was considering with myself how I might obtain the dominion of Asia, and this man exhorted me to make no delay, but boldly to pass over the sea thither, for that he would conduct my army, and would give me the dominion over the Persians. Whence it is, that having seen no other in that habit, and now seeing this person in it, and remembering that vision and the exhortation I had in my dream, I believe that I have undertaken this campaign by divine direction, that I shall conquer Darius, annihilate the dominion of the Persians, and successfully accomplish my whole design.' Alexander then gave his hand to the high priest, attended him into the city, went to the temple, and there offered sacrifices in the manner which the priests directed. When they afterwards shewed him the prophecies of Daniel respecting himself, he was highly gratified, and readily granted the request of the high priest, that the Jews might be free from tribute on the sabbatical year, and every where have liberty to live according to their own laws. Of his own accord, he promised the same indulgence to those Jews who would join his army; upon which many entered the service. Hecatæus also, as quoted by Josephus, testifies that there were Jews among the soldiers of Alexander."

No people in the world ever suffered more from civil dissensions within, and wars without, than did this chosen nation during the last three hundred years of its history. It was at the commencement of this dark period that Simon the Just died: he is among the greatest worthies of the Hebrew annals.

"This Simon is said to have been the last of the *great synagogue*, in which are included one hundred and twenty men; and among others, Ezra, Haggai, Zechariah, Nehemiah, and Malachi. Hence it is plain, that this great synagogue, so celebrated among the Jews, is nothing more than that succession of patriots after the captivity, who distinguished themselves by their labours towards the collection and revision of the sacred books, and the settlement and improvement of the civil and religious constitution of their country. Indeed, the Jewish traditions maintain that Simon the Just, as he was the last of the great synagogue, closed the sacred canon. The notices on this subject are so recent that they cannot be relied upon as historical evidence; but as such traditions are generally founded on some truth, it is very probable that Simon did complete the collection and revision of the sacred books, and even add some things respecting events of more recent occurrence. Some of the apparent additions in the Old Testament well correspond to the age of Simon. The genealogical register of David in the first Book of Chronicles, comes down to about the year B. C. 300; and in the catalogue of high priests in the Book of Nehemiah, Jaddua is mentioned in a manner which seems to intimate that he had been dead for some time."

The history is continued from the destruction of Jerusalem to the time of the Emperor Adrian. This part of the volumes, which is given, rather absurdly, under the title of an appendix, is translated from Baanage's famous work on Jewish history, a work of ability and learning, as the editor observes;—but which ought not to have been employed as a continuation of Jahn. It is, however, replete with entertaining matter. Among other particulars we find the following respecting the Jews in Italy, about the fifteenth century.

"The synagogue at Rome possessed some degree of authority over the rest. There was an instance of their exercising this authority in the last century. Rabbi Nathaniel Tribotti, in a treatise on the bathing of women, advanced several propositions which were objected to by the other rabbins, who wrote an answer to his work. Their controversy was carried on with great warmth, and was decided by the synagogue and academy at Rome in favour of the opinions of Tribotti. The rabbins acquiesced in their decision. I do not say that the authority of the synagogue at Rome was founded on any right which they claimed. It was the natural consequence of the superior power of the Jews in the capital of the empire. Great bishoprics have thus subjected the weaker to their power, and thus papal Rome has obtained its boasted superiority. Rome was the nursery of the Jews, and thence they spread through the rest of Italy. They sent their donations to Jerusalem from Rome and the other Italian cities; and we shall find, as we proceed, that they had established themselves at Cremona, Mantua, Bologna, Ferrara, and throughout the ecclesiastical states."

The annexed, also, respecting the very early establishment of a number of these people in Germany, is highly curious.

"The Jews of Worms pretend to have produced convincing proof to the emperor and to the states of the empire, that they had inhabited that city from time immemorial; and, therefore, that they could have taken no part in the crucifixion of Christ. Thus they obtained privileges which were not granted to other Jews. It was with a view to ingratiate themselves with the emperor, that they inserted in the *Toldos Jeschu* an extract from a letter which was written by the sanhedrin of Worms to the King of Judea, to prevent the death of Christ: 'Set this Jesus at liberty, and do not put him to death. Let him live until he has contracted some stain, and has become polluted.' Huldrich, who published the above treatise with learned notes, observes, that the expressions respecting our Saviour are borrowed from sacrifices. The Jews did not eat, nor offer on the altar, any sacrificial animal which was thought to be impure or diseased. It was fed with great care until some symptoms of disease appeared. Thus the Jews of Worms advised that Jesus Christ should be left to commit some crime, and then be put to death. But he adds, that this extract was inserted by the author of the treatise, to render the Jews of Worms odious to their countrymen. I am persuaded, however, that the writer of this work was a member of the synagogue of Worms, to whose prejudices he has conformed, in order to gain the favour of the emperor. In fact, the synagogue boasted that they had protected our Saviour; and this writer, one of their number, probably adopted their views. If they were rendered odious in the opinion of their countrymen, they were amply compensated by the superior privileges which they obtained from Christian princes. Another rabbi has

made the Caraites say, that 'Jesus Christ approved of their doctrines, and wished his disciples to practise their rites; and that he was slain by the Jews on account of their hatred to the law of Moses.' This doctor makes but a slight difference between the sentiments of Christ and those of the Caraites, and that difference to refer to the manner in which the dead are to rise. But the rabbi of Worms has attributed a different sentiment to his ancestors. According to him, they held nearly the language of Gamaliel: 'Let him alone; if this work be of man, it will come to naught.' It is of little importance for us to ascertain what was the intention of the above rabbi in writing his treatise. It is sufficient to remark, that there is no foundation for the pretensions of the Jews of Worms, who assert that they established themselves in Germany before the destruction of the second temple, and possessed a venerable council, which was consulted by the king of the Jews on important matters. The Jews in the bishopric of Mersburg make equal pretensions to antiquity; but they produce no proofs of the validity of their claims."

After what we have already said respecting Professor Jahn, it is only necessary for us to state, that the present publication is calculated to make his name still better known, and his talents more generally appreciated, in England. The translation appears to be very fairly executed; and we recommend the work to the general attention of our readers.

The Davenells; or, a Campaign of Fashion in Dublin. 2 vols. 12mo. London, 1829. Colburn.

THERE is nothing either very original or very striking in these volumes, but they are entertaining; and if there is little to interest, there is somewhat to amuse. "Manoeuvring" would have been a most expressive title,—mamma against mamma, daughter against daughter; with all the balls, concerts, &c. which form the staple commodities of our fashionable novels. We must choose our extracts at random: the following sketch, for example, is lively enough.

"Mrs. O'Brien will serve as a specimen. Having most successfully married off her three eldest daughters, she now brought out her fourth; a pretty-looking girl, with an air of innocence and ignorance of the world which were to be very attractive. She was dressed with great simplicity, and had the appearance of having outgrown her clothes: she was perpetually pulling them up on her shoulders, which would, in spite of her efforts, make their appearance; and her petticoats were rather shorter than the fashion demanded. Mrs. O'Brien affected to scold her for her little awkward ways; and frequently occupied herself in settling some part of her dress; her daughter looking all the time as if she was unconscious what her mother was about, and talking over her shoulder to some one behind her. Mrs. O'Brien would then say to any man near her, 'I declare that child no more knows how she is dressed, or what to put on!—if I did not watch her, I really believe she would go out half naked.' A gentleman to whom she said this one evening, remarked that her mother's care seemed to be thrown away. Mrs. O'Brien was piqued to conquer Captain Villiers's reserve. She addressed the chamberlain, with whom she was intimate: 'Pray, does Captain Villiers mean to stand all night like a *stick*, without dancing?' The chamberlain smiled, for it was a part of his office to smile whenever a lady spoke to him; but answered in a confidential tone, 'I really

do not know—but I am inclined to think he has not engaged himself to dance; perhaps he may in the course of the evening.' 'Do now,' said she in a coaxing tone, 'just ask him, would he like to dance?' and, glancing back at her daughter, 'you can offer to present him, you know.' The chamberlain, who was not unused to these delicate commissions, merely gave her a look expressive of the tenderest friendship, and then took a circuitous route to where Villiers stood. He passed him a few steps, speaking to various persons as he went; then, as if he suddenly thought of it, he turned back to him, and Mrs. O'Brien could perceive that he spoke, and that in consequence of something he said, Villiers moved his eyes in the direction where she was with her Miranda. His lips moved in reply, but so slightly, that they could have formed but one syllable; and to judge from his countenance, that was a negative. The chamberlain moved on without encountering Mrs. O'Brien again; and she took her daughter on her arm, and passed close under the eyes of our hero, without looking at him; but Miranda, with the utmost *naïveté*, looked up in his face as she passed, and turned her head back to gaze at him. He was speaking at the time to another aide-de-camp, the Honourable Somerset Hardinge, a very young man—the reverse of Villiers in colour and character. 'A pretty innocent-looking girl,' said he; 'do you know her?' 'No; I have just declined the honour of being presented to her as a partner, by the chamberlain.' 'What a savage you must be!' said Hardinge, laughing; 'I'll profit by your laziness.' and following Mrs. O'Brien and her daughter, and not waiting for the form of introduction, which he thought could not be necessary with an Irish girl, he bowed, first to the mother, and then asked Miss Miranda to dance. She twisted and writhed like a child that is uncertain whether to accept the toy that is offered it, until her mother said, 'You may dance, my dear, with Captain Hardinge.' He was a tall, fair-haired, gentlemanly-looking young man, with a very animated manner; and he and Miss Miranda *got on*, as the phrase is, amazingly. Mrs. O'Brien then walked about, telling every one how confounded poor Miranda was at Captain Hardinge's admiration; and nobody believed her, though nobody had the rudeness to tell her so."

Two or three bits of the fancy ball are amusing:—how many, by the by, are in the same condition as the *Fryschtitz*!—

"The fine people of the neighbourhood contented themselves with adding some magnificence to their usual ball-dresses; or, at most, with some dress which might by courtesy be called Spanish, eastern, or peasant: having no idea, as they said, of taking trouble to cut a figure amongst the lesser squires and their families. But the inferior gentry were more ambitious of distinction. Ingenuity was racked; and as talent is not confined to rank, some certainly made up in humour and truth of representation what was wanting in refined taste. Some characters, however, excited nothing but disgust. A party of tall young men, dressed as a troop of charity girls, conducted by a little woman, the sister of one of them, paraded the room, were stared at, and then avoided whenever they appeared. Girls would not dance with them; and though a few boys did for a short time, the exhibition was declared to be so vulgar and unpleasing, that they were reduced to dance with each other, or to remain still. Two young men, of rather good appearance, walked about dressed in short green coats, ornamented with buttons and braids and tags;

hunting-caps, covered with plumes of black feathers, and small bugle-horns, which, however, they could not sound, in their hands. As they neither sang nor spoke, it was not easy to guess what this meant: at length Wharton took the liberty of asking one of them. He laughed, and answered with the most good-humoured and undisguised brogue, 'Why indeed, sir, my brother and me, we are in the character of the Fryschtuitz.' 'I shall inform the company, sir,' said Wharton. 'Thank you, sir,' said the young man.'

We should say, from internal evidence, that the report which assigns this work to Lady Morgan is erroneous. We have heard another, which gives it to the sister of a countess, and the widow of a man of great eminence in Dublin. But be the author who she may, she is obviously quite at home in Irish society, and has made as good a sketch of it as the subject admits.

Journal of an Embassy from the Governor-General of India to the Court of Ava, in the Year 1827. By John Crawfurd, Esq. F.R.S. &c. late Envoy. With an Appendix, containing a Description of Fossil Remains, by Professor Buckland and Mr. Clift. 4to. pp. 605. London, 1829. Colburn.

The first four hundred pages of this ponderous quarto volume consist of a rather dry, and frequently a superfluous, detail of occurrences during Mr. Crawfurd's mission to Ava, for the purpose of negotiating a treaty of commerce between that court and the East India Company. The passages to and from the capital, by the river Irrawadi, are, for popular reading, however useful in a scientific light, most laboriously rendered: not a sand-bank does the steam-boat on its tedious way strike upon, but we have a full description of its inconveniences; every wretched temple or pagoda that rears its umbrella-head delays us with its probable chronology, the barbarous name that reared it, and we are cloyed with the repeated delineations of structures so generally unvaried in form and fabric. The negotiation presents nothing of such sufficient novelty, variety, or importance, as to demand so elaborate an account: the delays, doubts, suspicions, and artifices of the Burmese authorities were not otherwise than might be expected from a rude and semi-barbarous people, who, conscious of the presence of a superior, sought by every clumsy chicanery to disguise the acknowledgment of it. If the Burmese negotiations proceeded but slowly, Mr. Crawfurd has caught the spirit of them in the volume before us; and we have rather a difficulty in selecting a sufficiently amusing extract, but, at venture, give the account of the envoy's presentation to his Majesty of Ava, and the courtly amusement of taming the wild elephant.

"Our promised presentation to the king took place this forenoon. A suitable number of boats were sent to receive us; and at twelve o'clock we crossed the river, and arrived at the Elephant Palace, which is about a mile below the town, and close to the banks of the Irrawadi. The Elephant Palace and its appurtenances is a place appropriated for exhibiting, for the king's diversion, the taming of the wild male elephant. This place is a square enclosure, surrounded every where by a double palisade, composed of immense beams of teak timber, each equal in diameter to the mainmast of a four hundred ton ship. Between the palisades there is a stone wall, about fourteen feet high and twenty thick. On the top of this the spectators are seated to view the sport. The

palace is situated on the south-west angle of the square, and is upon a level with the highest part of the wall. The enclosure has two entrances, the gates of which are composed of beams, which can be moved at the bottom by means of ropes. The centre of the enclosure is a greensward, in the middle of which there is a temple surrounded by a palisade. This temple is dedicated to a Nat, named by the Burmans Udin-main-so. This personage is said to have been king of a country called Kambangi in Majima Desa, or the 'middle land'—that is to say, Western India, or the country of the Hindus. He was contemporary with Gautama; and in his transmigration became, in consequence of his skill in taming elephants, a king of Nats, and the guardian and protector of elephant-hunting. We were received under a shed which represents the Lut-d'hau, and which is situated on the north side of the enclosure. We had not been here above a few minutes, when we were summoned to the western side of the enclosure, where the gate is, at which the elephants were about to enter. We left our shoes behind us in the hall, and proceeded along the top of the wall, to within no great distance of his majesty; when we sat down, making our obeisance by touching the forehead with the right hand. A cloud of dust announced the approach of the elephants, about twenty in number: these, with the exception of the captive, were all females, several of them with their young following them. A few of the best broken-in only were mounted. Partly by persuasion, and partly by force, there was seen driving before them a small male elephant, not, as we were told, above thirteen years [?] old: it required at least half an hour to induce him to enter the gate of the enclosure. A very docile female elephant led the way, conducted by her keeper; but the half-tamed females were nearly as reluctant to enter as the wild male himself: they went five or six times half-way in, before they were finally entrapped; and, twice over, the male had run off to the distance of a quarter of a mile from the enclosure, but was again brought back by the females. A message was sent to us by the king to say that we were at liberty to stand up to view this part of the sport, but unluckily we were already standing when it reached us. The elephants having entered, we were requested to come into the king's presence, in which situation we should have a better view of the sport. We walked round accordingly by the southern and eastern angles of the enclosure, and seats were assigned to us in the same line with, and next to, the princes; not only the most distinguished, but the most convenient situation. We made a bow as before, and the sport went on. From the smallness of the elephant, there was neither much danger nor amusement in it. The females were withdrawn from the enclosure one by one, and then the elephant-catchers, who are a distinct race, went into the square unarmed, and provoked the wild elephant to pursue them, which he did with great fury. The keepers took shelter from his pursuit within the palisade, through the apertures of which he lashed his trunk in vain. The elephant-keepers exhibited much boldness and agility; but from what we saw, I should conceive that they ran very little risk. Accidents, however, sometimes occur. A few years ago, one of the hunters, when pursued by the elephant, tripped and fell: he was killed on the spot by the enraged animal. The king, who was present when this happened, immediately retired, the sight of blood not being fit for him to behold, either as a sovereign, or

a votary of Gautama. Some goats were put into the square, and these were pursued by the elephant in the same way as the keepers, and with as little effect. These animals eluded his pursuit with the utmost ease; and were so little concerned at his presence, that they soon began to quarrel amongst themselves. When the elephant was sufficiently tired, three huge tame male elephants were brought in to secure him, each mounted by his keeper, who had in his hand a rope with a noose, which one of them, after the second or third effort, succeeded in casting round the foreleg. The animal made comparatively very little resistance, appearing to be quite subdued by the presence of his three powerful antagonists, who, after the noose was fixed, drove him by main force into a pen at the south side of the enclosure, from which he was afterwards withdrawn, and tied to a post by a comparatively slender rope put round his neck, through his mouth, and round his tusks. We saw him in this situation, under a shed, as we were returning home, very restless and sulky. He was so closely tied to the post, that he could scarcely move, and had no power to do any mischief. We were told by the keepers, that the male elephants, when thus secured, refuse food for about five days. It takes six or seven months to tame them effectually, and occasionally as much as a whole year, for their dispositions are very various."

In the hope of its doing benefit elsewhere by its example, we cannot resist the insertion of a punishment inflicted upon one of the public functionaries for a simple neglect of duty.

"Through the night of the 1st, a fire broke out in the populous suburb which lies between the walls of the town and the little river, and property to a considerable value was destroyed. The house of the widow of the Saya-wungyi, who had been the king's tutor and favourite, was in great danger; and this old lady, who had the reputation of being very frugal, if not avaricious, irritated at her loss, repaired forthwith to the king, and made complaint that, during the conflagration, the ministers, and especially Kaulen Mengyi, who was her husband's successor, and of whom she was very jealous, were not at their posts; for it appears that it is their special duty to attend upon such occasions. The king, who was still very much out of humour, summoned the ministers before him; sent for a sword, drew it, and ordered them, one by one, to come forward and swear upon it that they were present at the conflagration, and assisting in extinguishing it. Kaulen Mengyi came forward and avowed that he was not present; but that he had gone as far as the rung-d'hau, or town-hall, to give the necessary instructions upon the occasion. He was immediately ordered to be taken out of the audience-hall; and, to avoid being dragged thence by the hair of the head, according to usage, voluntarily made as rapid a retreat as could be expected from a man between sixty and seventy, and of a weakly constitution. An order was given that he should be punished after a manner which I shall presently describe. The other ministers, none of whom were present at the fire, escaped under various pretexts of business or sickness. The punishment now awarded to the first minister is called, in the Burman language, *ne-pu m'ha lhan the*, or, 'spreading out in the hot sun.' The offender who undergoes it is stretched upon his back by the public executioners, and thus exposed for a given number of hours in the hottest part of the day, with a weight on his breast, more or less heavy according to the nature of the offence, or rather according to the king's opi-

nion of it. It was at first thought that the sentence, on the part of the king, was a mere threat. Not so; the most faithful and zealous of his ministers underwent the punishment this afternoon, from one to three o'clock, and not, as is customary on such occasions with culprits of distinction, within the palace enclosure, but in the public road between the eastern gate of the palace and the town-hall, and in the view of a multitude of spectators."

The concluding part of the volume consists of a general description of the Burman empire and its resources, and forms the redeeming portion of the work; from it we arrive at the conclusion, that the East India Company will not have acquired any thing of great value by the cession of territory made to them at the peace. As in other portions of the East, so we find it here, the clog to improvement is in the despotism of the rulers, who repress every impulse that might tend to it by their rapacity and outrage. That the lower orders of the Burmese are capable of better things, this convincing fact must speak for them, that under European artificers at Rangoon, they were found to be the most dexterous and laborious of artisans, indeed greatly surpassing all the other natives of our Indian provinces. We must, however, allow that despotism is not, in this instance, an unmixed evil, as by its check to population, the physical comforts of the few are improved; and for the satisfaction of those who support this doctrine, we quote from Mr. Crawford its confirmation.

"An instructive example of the beneficial effect of high wages is afforded by comparing wages at Calcutta and Rangoon. A carpenter of the best description, at Calcutta, earns only twenty shillings a-month, while one at Rangoon will earn thirty. The wages of the native of Bengal will purchase about eight hundred pounds of rice; that of the Burman, about eleven hundred and twenty. Beggary, as may be readily inferred from these statements, is very unfrequent among the Burmese; and, with the exception of the voluntary mendicity of the priesthood, is confined to a few unfortunate persons, driven to it more by superstition than necessity. Under the very favourable circumstances now described, nothing seems wanting to insure a great increase of population in the Burmese dominions, but a moderate share of peace, tranquillity, and security. In the cessions made to ourselves, those benefits may be safely calculated upon; and in such of them as enjoy the advantage of a good climate and fertile soil, we may, with some abatement for the stubborn habits of a semi-barbarous people, expect to see here a rapidity of increase in population, more resembling that of an American colony, than what we have been accustomed to in our old Indian possessions. The capital and example of strangers will not only accelerate this increase, but insure its being accompanied by improvement. In the meanwhile, it is some satisfaction to find that the high rate of wages among the Burmese tends greatly to mitigate the despotism which, by repressing population, gives rise to it. Owing to high wages, and probably to this alone, the labouring classes are, upon the whole, well-fed, clad, and housed; a fact which is soon observed by a stranger, and, taking place under such apparently inauspicious circumstances, appears at first view so unaccountable. In fact, the Burmese peasantry are in more comfortable and easy circumstances than the mass of the labouring poor in any of our Indian provinces; and, making allowance for climate, manners, and habits, might bear a comparison with the

peasantry of most European countries. As long as land capable of yielding corn with little labour continues to bear the same large proportion to the population as at present, the government cannot rob the peasantry of the mere wages of personal labour; nay, its interference tends only to enhance or insure them. The scantiness of the population is in this manner an advantage to the people. Were the country, for example, inhabited in the same ratio as the neighbouring one of Hindustan generally, it would contain about one hundred inhabitants to the square mile; or its population would be 20,000,000, or five times more than its present amount. Were it peopled in the same proportion as Bengal, that part of India to which in soil and climate it bears the closest analogy, it would contain double this number, or ten times the number of its present inhabitants. The consequence of this would be, supposing no corresponding improvement in the government, that wages falling, and the price of corn rising, the people would be reduced to a state of poverty and misery, of the most abject and degrading description. That such is not now the case, but, on the contrary, that labour is well rewarded, affords of itself a sufficient presumption that former estimates of the populousness of the country were prodigiously exaggerated."

A most excellent map of the Burmese dominions, and several well-executed engravings, embellish this volume; of which we now take leave, recommending it to the perusal of all who are connected by the ties of commerce with the East, or who are solicitous for information on this not new portion of our oriental relations.

Autographs of Royal, Noble, Learned, and Remarkable Personages conspicuous in English History; accompanied by concise Biographical Memoirs, and interesting Extracts from the Original Documents. By John Gough Nichols. Part XI.

THE present Number, which contains fifty-eight autographs, many of them singularly interesting (among them, that of Shakespeare), concludes this very amusing and valuable publication; a publication of which it is truly asserted, "that it cannot be equalled by any collection of originals alone." Prefixed to the No. is an *Essay on Autographs*; in which there is much curious and amusing information, and from which we extract the following passages:—

"The first collections of autographs were probably those entitled 'Alba Amicorum.' The fashion appears to have originated in Germany, towards the close of the sixteenth century. A remarkable incident in the Life of the celebrated Sir Henry Wotton was the result of a sentence which he wrote in one of these books; and his biographer, Izaak Walton, in relating the story, defines an 'albo' to be 'a white-paper book which the German gentry usually carry about them for the purpose of requesting such eminent characters to write some sentence in.' In Humphrey Wanley's Catalogue of the Harleian Manuscripts we find a more full description. No. 993 of that collection is 'a paper book in octavo, bound long-wise [this seems to have been for some time the general form], being one of those which the Germans call albums, and are much used by the young travellers of that nation, who commonly ask a new acquaintance (even at the first meeting) to write some sentence therein, with a compliment to the owner's learning, good sense, &c.; which done, the names gotten are laid before the next

new face, and the young man upon all occasions, especially at his return, by these hands demonstrates what good company he has kept. Nevertheless, in England there may be some good use made of these books (besides the benefit of some wise and uncommon sentences to be found therein), I mean by the original hands of foreigners of the highest quality of both sexes, of other noblemen, ladies, learned, and otherwise eminent persons, whose hands perhaps cannot otherwise be come at." * * *

Wanley wrote this in the true spirit of an autograph collector. Whether his masters the Earls of Oxford, or Sir Robert Cotton, whilst amassing manuscripts for the superior object of their valuable contents, collected any merely as specimens of 'original hands' does not appear. In the middle of the seventeenth century Sir Symonds D'Ewes was such a collector, and a queen contributed to his collection. The letter of Elizabeth, queen of Bohemia, of which part is engraved in the present work, accompanied three letters of her husband, her eldest son, and her cousin the Duke of Brunswick, sent as specimens of their hand-writing. The preface to Thane's Autography furnishes an enumeration of several subsequent collectors.

'The fac-similes given in this work,' it says, 'are from the originals which formerly were in the collections of those well-known antiquaries, Ralph Thoresby, Esq., Peter le Neve, Esq., James West, Esq., Rev. Mr. Ives, Mr. Bartleet, Gustavus Brander, Esq., &c.' The first of these collections will be found fully described in a distinct chapter of the Museum Thoresbyanum. After mentioning that he had a copy of Camden's Britannia in quarto, 'which I bought for the sake of the learned author's autograph,' Mr. Thoresby continues, 'this reminds me of another branch of the curiosities that I began to collect of late years; viz. original letters, and other matters of the proper hand-writing of persons of all ranks, eminent in their generations,' of which he proceeds to give a catalogue, the names only of the writers occupying more than three large folio pages. * * * In more recent days, collections of autographs have been formed by Sir William Musgrave, who bequeathed to the British Museum, among several other volumes of valuable MSS., a large quarto full of signatures detached from the original documents; and by the late James Bindley, Esq., F.S.A., the sale of whose library in 1820 was concluded with 108 lots of autographs. Among the names which are at present best known as the possessors of extensive collections are those of John L. Anderdon, Esq., which is particularly rich in original letters of distinguished foreigners, and has become of great extent by the conjunction of several entire collections; Dawson Turner, Esq., F.R.S. and S.A. of Yarmouth; J. B. Williams, Esq., F.S.A. of Shrewsbury, the author of the *Lives of the Rev. Matthew and Philip Henry*; John Wild, Esq., of the Albany, whose miscellaneous volumes are appropriately enriched with portraits; Miss Hutton of Birmingham, daughter of the well-known historian of that town; the Rev. Dr. Raffles, and Thomas Thompson, one of the Society of Friends (possessing a very extensive and highly interesting series of papers illustrative of the history of the Society to which he belongs, as well as copies of Junius's Letters and Clarkson's History of the Slave Trade, enriched by autographs and portraits), both at Liverpool; the Rev. Robert Bolton, and Mr. Peter Benwell, both at Henley-on-Thames; Charles Britiffe Smith, Esq., very complete in musical characters; Mr. Jewer Henry Jewer,

of Kentish Town; Mr. Edward Skegg of the Adelphi, very complete in franks in various parliaments; Mr. Mathews the comedian, and Mr. Winston the late stage-manager at Drury Lane Theatre, both very extensive, and comprising materials, original and valuable, for a complete history of the English stage; and Lord William Fitzroy should be mentioned as the possessor of the most extensive series of franks of both houses of parliament, chronologically arranged from the time of Charles II. to the present day; whilst the very voluminous collection of Mr. William Upcott, of the London Institution, is decidedly unrivalled, not only for its magnitude, but for its utility and the style of its illustration, and has been the happy means of preserving and making known to the world some historical records of the highest value. Several collections have been dispersed by auction; and it has been a matter of astonishment to perceive the high prices which documents, of very trifling interest in their contents, have produced from being regarded as autographs."

An Inquiry into the Place and Quality of the Gentlemen of his Majesty's most Honourable Privy Chamber. By Nicholas Carlisle, F.R.S., M.R.I.A., F.S.A., one of the Gentlemen of the Privy Chamber. Royal 8vo. pp. 366. London, 1829. Payne and Foss.

This book is one of the consequences of Mr. Carlisle's appointment to office; and although we presume that many of our readers are not wholly unacquainted with the etiquette of the court, yet as some persons may desire to have their curiosity gratified as to the nature of this nearly obsolete branch of the royal household, we will endeavour very briefly to condense the volume before us for their satisfaction. After great facilities afforded by the clerks of the Board of Green Cloth, and of the Lord Chamberlain's office, to his researches, the author learned that the *place and quality* is held with-out fee, it being long since the ordinary duties of the office entirely ceased. It was not one of those branches likely to be affected by Burke's celebrated bill, as the feudal ostentation of state, which required these gentlemen's constant attendance, had already been abolished; while their names and office, an unexpensive formality, was retained in the household roll with purely nominal advantages, the only writ of privilege being, as Mr. C. has informed us, the warrant of appointment.

The precise origin of the office is left unexplained, but it is here derived from valet and varlet, terms now very distinct from that of gentleman; and the esquires of the body, personal attendants of the king in the field, are supposed, we think improbably, to be the actual precursors of the gentlemen of the privy chamber. The first time the office is mentioned is in the ordinances made at Eltham in the 17th year of Henry VIII.; their number was then six, although, like other branches of the household, it was often enlarged, and as often retrenched, according as the exigencies of the state required, and varied considerably in the several reigns.

To explain the place and quality of these gentlemen of the privy chamber, it may not be unnecessary to describe the disposition of the state-rooms, which in all the royal palaces is uniform, and leads *en suite* through the great chamber, the presence-chamber, privy chamber, withdrawing-room, and bed-chamber. In the first room, during all ceremonies, the yeomen of the guard give attendance; in the second, the band of gentlemen

pensioners: these were offices of a military origin, and their privilege of entry did not extend to the privy chamber, where the gentlemen of whom we now speak were the only attendants; and their duty, at least in the reign of Charles I., will be found sufficiently explained in the following extract.

"No person, of what estate or condition whatsoever, shall presume to come into our privy chamber, but only noblemen and those that are sworne of our privy chamber,—and our cup-bearers, carvers, and sewers, only when we eat here,—and our equerries only upon riding daies. And no man shall presume to come in *booted*, except it be at such time as they are to ride with us. No privy chamber man, or other allowed to come into the privy chamber, shall presume to come into any of our privy lodgings further than our privy chamber, except only the lords and others of our privy council,—and permitting bishops and other lords to come *into the outer withdrawing roome*, next to the privy chamber at *White-Hall*. The gentlemen that wait in quarter shall attend six of them when we eat in our privy chamber, for the bringing in of our meale to the board, and doing of their other services to us,—and four of them by turne shall lodge every night within our privy chamber."

The gentlemen likewise attended at coronations, public entries of foreign ambassadors, royal funerals, and all state ceremonies: their last attendance was at the coronation of his present majesty, when nine gentlemen of the privy chamber walked between the solicitor and attorney-general, far removed from the person of the sovereign. A blue satin dress, prepared for the occasion, we are here informed, cost eighty guineas. With a little innocent vanity, the author enlarges upon the honour of his appointment, which he declares has been "coveted not only by men of the highest rank, but of the greatest talents;" when the office could only have been used as an introduction to court by men whose abilities were afterwards developed in their country's service: neither has he the fortitude to suppress his lamentation at the invasion of rights and privileges which took place soon after the late coronation, in the decision upon Dr. Battine's case.

The royal household, in which offices are held by patent, sometimes for life, sometimes by inheritance, is formed upon manners and customs that have long since expired: even Burke, that arch innovator, admitted there was some reason in ancient necessities for their ancient customs. Protection, he says, was wanted; and the domestic tie, though not the highest, was the closest.

The post of gentleman of the privy chamber is a trace of this feudality, which in the ancient tables of precedence enjoyed a degree of rank that had gradually declined; at this our author very naturally repines. It is indeed one of those subjects that have embarrassed a court from the earliest periods. King Stephen, it is well known, established a round-table at his palace at Winchester, solely to prevent the disputes of this kind amongst his attendants—*Bouche of court*, we cannot help admiring the term, and heartily participate with the author in his regret at its abolition. The six gentlemen of the privy chamber, he informs us, had formerly dined for two messes. A mess of meat, we believe, generally meant a fit proportion for four persons; and, we are told by Howell, who wrote in the reign of Charles II., that every dish at court was computed to cost the king a hundred pounds a dish; but, he continues, now the purveyance is taken

away, every dish doth stand in four times as much at least. Now no royal revenue could be raised adequate to the support of such an accumulated charge upon the ancient establishment.

Mr. Carlisle's book is, in truth, a book of detail, wanting in clearness,—a merit we really ought to expect from the antiquary; and deficient in that which would make it more useful as a book of reference, *viz.* a good index.

Cunningham's British Painters, &c. Part IV. of the Family Library.

[Conclusion of our notice.]

Or the account of *Richard Wilson* one specimen must suffice.

"It was the misfortune of Wilson to be unappreciated in his own day;—and he had the additional mortification of seeing works wholly unworthy of being ranked with his, admired by the public, and purchased at large prices. The demand for the pictures of Barret was so great, that the income of that indifferent dauber rose to two thousand pounds a-year; and the equally weak landscapes of Smith of Chichester were of high value in the market—at the time when the works of Wilson were neglected and disregarded, and the great artist himself was sinking, in the midst of the capital, under obscurity, indigence, and dejection. He was reduced, by this capricious ignorance of the wealthy and the titled, to work for the meanest of mankind. Hogarth, as we have seen, sold some of his plates for half-a-crown a pound weight,—and Wilson painted his *Ceyx and Alcyone* for a pot of beer and the remains of a Stilton cheese! His chief resource for subsistence was in the sordid liberality of pawnbrokers, to whose hands many of his finest works were consigned wet from the easel. One person, who had purchased many pictures from him, when urged by the unhappy artist to buy another, took him into his shop-garret, and, pointing to a pile of landscapes, said, 'Why, look ye, Dick, you know I wish to oblige, but see! there are all the pictures I have paid you for these three years.' To crown his disappointments—in a contest for fame with Smith of Chichester—the Royal Society decided against Wilson. To account for the caprice of the public, or even for the imperfect taste of a Royal Society, is less difficult than to find a reason for the feelings of dislike, and even hostility, with which Wilson was regarded by Reynolds. We are told that the eminent landscape-painter, notwithstanding all the refinement and intelligence of his mind, was somewhat coarse and repulsive in his manners. He was indeed a lover of pleasant company, a drinker of ale and porter—one who loved boisterous mirth and rough humour: and such things are not always found in society which calls itself select. But what could the artist do? The man whose patrons are pawnbrokers, instead of peers—whose works are paid in porter and cheese—whose pockets contain little copper and no gold—whose dress is coarse and his house ill-replenished—must seek such society as corresponds with his means and condition—he must be content to sit elsewhere than at a rich man's table covered with embossed plate. That the coarseness of his manners and the meanness of his appearance should give offence to the courtly Reynolds is not to be wondered at—that they were the cause of his hostility I cannot believe, though this has often been asserted. Their dislike was in fact mutual; and I fear it must be imputed to something like jealousy."

"Of his own future fame he spoke seldom;

for he was a modest man; but, when he did speak of it, he used expressions which the world has since sanctioned. 'Beechey,' he said, 'you will live to see great prices given for my pictures, when those of Barret will not fetch one farthing.' The salary of librarian rescued him from utter starvation; indeed, so few were his wants, so simple his fare, and so moderate his appetite, that he found it, little as it was, nearly enough. He had as he grew old become more negligent of his person—as fortune forsook him, he left a fine house for one inferior—a fashionable street for one cheap and obscure; he made sketches for half-a-crown, and expressed gratitude to one Paul Sanby for purchasing a number from him at a small advance of price. His last retreat in this wealthy city was a small room somewhere about Tottenham-court-road;—an easel and a brush—a chair and a table—a hard bed with few clothes—scanty meat and the favourite pot of porter—were all that Wilson could call his own. A disgrace to an age which lavished its tens of thousands on mountebanks and projectors—on Italian screamers, and men who made mouths at Shakespeare."

Without going into the lives of Reynolds and Gainsborough, we trust we have done enough to justify the language with which we began. This is the work of a writer of vigorous sense as well as lively imagination, intimately conversant with art, as it has been and is—and, what we value still more highly, deeply skilled in human nature, and sympathising acutely with the hopes, fears, struggles, disappointments, and triumphs of genius. We look forward with great pleasure to the completion of the task. Mr. Cunningham, when that is done, will find himself in possession of a very enviable station among English biographers; and we cannot too warmly congratulate the editors of the *Family Library*, on the acquisition of such a powerful coadjutor in the walk of art.

With respect to embellishments, this cheap *duodecimo* might stand a comparison with some of our handsome Annuals.

Thompson's Visit to Guatemala.

[Third notice.]

THOUGH it is so long ago as May 2d, since our preceding notice of this volume appeared, the accounts of the capture of Guatemala, which have arrived within these few days, have imparted so fresh an interest to the work, that we are induced to resume its review with, simply, a reference to No. 641, page 285, of the *Literary Gazette*, where we left off with the author's return to the capital from a country excursion.

"All the houses were thrown open; garlands of ribands and flowers were streaming from the windows or suspended across the streets: at four different stations, each of them at the farthest angle from the centre of the town, were erected temporary altars, ornamented with cut glass, looking-glasses, large silver salvers, together with other articles of gold and silver, and in short every species of wealth and finery that the inhabitants possessed. The principal families who live near the particular station undertake, by turns, the fitting up of these altars; but it is customary for every one to contribute something towards their ornament. During the procession, in particular, these temporary altars are illuminated with a profusion of wax candles: the same are also kept burning on them for a day or two previous, and it is usual to see the young ladies of the family occupied in the office of

trimming them, and, in fact, taking charge of the whole arrangement. In all the several ceremonies, both in and out of the church, the civil authorities were much employed: church and state were intimately blended. The president was conveyed to and from the cathedral in a state carriage, drawn by four mules; two young lads of family, Zaravia and Aguirre, acting as postillions. In the procession there were included all the religious orders of the place. Of the order of Carmelites there were forty monks, of our Lady of Mercy thirty, Franciscans forty, Dominicans thirty, Recollects fifty, Collegians thirty; in all about two hundred and twenty: these were followed by four hundred soldiers, and fifty or sixty other persons, who also formed part of the procession. I was invited into the house of the Marquess of Ayzenea. The large rooms looking into the street were full of company; the windows were all open, and the ladies were disposed in groups on the window-seats; and their mothers, many of whom were indisposed by colds, which they were thus increasing, were seated in chairs behind them. As the Host passed, the whole company knelt down, and after a minute's silence and recollection, the buzz of mirth and business again filled the apartment. On one of the pier tables was a representation in wax-work of the shepherds coming to adore our Saviour: the rooms of all the houses, from the first to the lowest class, are so filled with these images and representations, that I should not have mentioned this circumstance in particular, had not my attention been arrested by some beads on the neck of one of the shepherds which looked like pearls, but which I thought, of course, could not be, from their extraordinary size: I found, however, that I was mistaken. I had hardly supposed it possible that such enormous pearls existed; and, wishing to ascertain their value, I guessed them at ten thousand pounds: the marquess, I understood, had given more for them. The necklace consisted of twenty-one pearls, the centre one being in the shape of, and as large as, a pigeon's egg, and the others large in proportion, but round, and decreasing in size gradually towards each end."

These immense pearls are perhaps hardly less remarkable than the state of the arts, as thus spoken of:—

"Visited the convent of San Francisco. The church is one of the handsomest buildings in the town. The monks do not exceed fifty, but they are rich, and outvie the other ecclesiastical establishments in the grandeur of their processions, and the internal decorations of their temple. I was much struck by some of the pictures, especially one of Lazarus on the point of rising from the grave. Whether it was from the disposition of the light, or the excellence of the execution, I could not decide; but I could hardly persuade myself that it was not a real human being I was contemplating. I frequently afterwards visited the church, purposely to look at this picture: the impression of its excellence increased with my future observations. In the midday glare, and in the sombre shades of the evening, it still preserved its character of reality; and I do not remember, in all the churches which I have since visited in the Netherlands, having ever seen any thing more awful and impressive. What is most extraordinary, it is said to be the production of a native artist."

Man has been defined to be a cooking animal, and it is therefore fitting to inquire what sort of cooks they are in the new countries of the New World.

"We returned home to dinner about mid-day. I went into the kitchen to view the preparations, for the purpose of observing the style of cooking. The whole was effected by charcoal stoves: there was no open fire-place for roasting, and about half a dozen earthen pans, with handles, formed the whole *baterie de cuisine*. On the floor was lying a turkey, as if it were in a fit; and another was standing over it, evincing the greatest distress at its situation. I hardly ever remember having witnessed so much feeling in any animal as that exhibited in the action and manner of this disconsolate bird. Its companion, which, it seems, had been dosed with brandy so as to stupefy it, was destined to die under the paroxysms of intoxication, for the purpose of rendering its flesh immediately available for the table. I had always remarked, both here and at Mexico, that the turkeys were delicately tender. We all remember that Horace prescribes a little vinegar for the purpose; but, perhaps, the plan of deadly intoxication is not so generally known."

What would our friend Mr. Ude say to this? After dining on drunken turkeys, the annexed is a pretty picture of the retirement of a lady from table, (thought taken from a distant page of the volume, relative to Mexico).

"The bride was a small, shy little girl, about fifteen years of age, but plump and healthy, with a pair of bright black eyes, which made up, by the force and variety of their expression, for the silence and reserve of her general manner. The high tables, of which I have before spoken, render eating exceedingly awkward, even to a tall person; but with regard to one so short as was our amiable little hostess, it seemed to be a matter of the utmost convenience: for, laying her chin down on the edge of the plate, with her elbows poised on the table on each side of it, her hands moved alternately from the plate to her mouth, with the slightest possible exertion, like two reversed oars, rowing steadily out of time. As during this operation her eyes fulfilled the office of her tongue, and no time was lost in conversation, she was enabled to work double tides, and always left us, as soon as she had done, to finish the rest of the business by ourselves. Opposite the door-way, in the centre of the large hall in which we dined, and in front of the place which I occupied at the table, was suspended one of those hammocks of which I have often spoken: it was hung under an awning which surrounded the internal part of the building, and encircling the court-yard. Into this she flung herself with a sort of patient indifference, which had something, however, of an air of listlessness; and, striking one of the pillars of the colonnade with her foot, and the wall on the other side with her hand, she dashed off, all at once, into a full swing. One of her maids immediately came up to her with a paper cigar, which she was smoking to keep alight, and, watching her opportunity, popped it into the hand, which was mechanically held out, and which transferred it, in a twinkling, into the mouth of the mistress. The operation was so neatly performed, that the oscillation of the swing was not in the slightest degree deranged. A subsidiary kick or thump kept it going for a quarter of an hour, when it gradually stopped. The cigar was smoked, the lady was asleep, and our dinner was almost finished."

We have only room for another sketch. A large party of ladies and gentlemen met on the road (in Mexico) are thus described:

"They were all mounted on mules, some of

them with single, and others with double saddles. The lady's single saddle consists of a small dickey, or three-sided cushioned seat, with a step for the feet; in short, it is a lady's Brighton donkey-saddle. When they ride double, the gentleman sits on the mule's haunches, with a saddle properly shaped for the purpose, having a flat square surface in front, on which his fair companion is seated, with her legs on the off side, or rather shoulders, of the animal. In this case, she has no step or stirrup to support her feet, but generally sits cross-legged, trusting for her equilibrium to the good offices of the gentleman, whose left arm thus naturally surrounds her waist. His bridle is held in the right hand, which, as all my readers know, is the wrong one; but the other being engaged, he has no opportunity of helping himself, or even of lighting his cigar—so that this business devolves, as a matter of course, upon his companion: and thus the journey is accompanied, as might be expected, with a general interchange of mutual good offices. I never passed a party of these travellers, but I remarked that those who were riding in this fashion seemed to be the most cheerful and contented amongst them, and the least tired with the journey: a circumstance very difficult to account for, since the position of each is thus rendered very cramped and uncomfortable."

Our countryman is a bit of a wag! Witness for us, in conclusion, his idea of what an ambassador to any of these new states ought to be.

"They are (he assures us) obliged to evince, equally, physical and mental exertion; to combine the activity of the courier with the sedateness of the statesman; they should possess expansiveness of mind, with solidity of opinion; a pliancy of character, with obduracy of epidermis; and a delicacy of sensibility, with a stomach for the black vomit."

Where are such men to be met with, to uphold the British interests in Central and South America? The thick heads, hard skins, and powerful stomachs, we have no doubt, may be found among our sucking politicians in Downing Street and the Treasury; but the mind, the character, and the delicacy of sensibility, (sith it must be so), alas! where are they?

On Aneurism and its Cure, by a new Operation dedicated, by permission, to the King.
By James Wardrop, Surgeon to his Majesty. pp. 117. London, Longman and Co.

ANEURISM is that dreadful disease where, from the rupture or dilatation of an artery, a pulsating swelling, filled with blood, is formed, which gradually enlarges, till at length the thin and soft parts, which have been stretched to the utmost, give way, and the patient dies of a frightful bleeding. This disorder, so steady in its course, so invariably certain in its fatal issue—it may well be supposed, has engaged the attention of surgeons from the remotest antiquity. It was, however, generally considered beyond the reach of art, or at most only to be remedied by the hazardous operation of opening the swelling, or by amputation of the limb, till half a century ago, when John Hunter, the father of modern surgery, turned his splendid talents to the investigation of the disease, and proposed the method of tying the artery between the heart and the aneurism, and thus preventing the blood from reaching the tumour. The principle of this operation, which now bears the name of its founder, has been extended to other arteries besides that

of the thigh, for which it was originally intended, and has been adopted throughout Europe; and in practice found so successful, that it is at present universally admitted to be one of the grandest and most useful discoveries which have ever shed a lustre over surgical science, or conferred important benefits on the human race. It is evident, however, that the *Hunterian operation* can only be employed in those cases of aneurism where, from its superficial course, the artery can readily be reached by the knife of the surgeon: but a vast number of instances unfortunately occur, where the disease is situated so high up in the groin, or so deeply at the root of the neck, that it is physically impossible for the best anatomist to secure the vessel. These cases have hitherto been considered beyond the reach of art, and regarded as the opprobria of surgery.

Mr. Wardrop, on taking a philosophical review of the data which led John Hunter to propose his operation, was led to conceive, that if the artery were tied beyond the tumour—i. e. further from the heart than the disease itself, or, as he terms it, "on the distal side of the aneurism"—a cure might be effected. For he believed that the circulation through the disease would in that way be prevented, and the blood already filling the tumour allowed to coagulate. Being convinced of the truth of these pathological views, he proceeded to put them to the test of experience, and tied the carotid artery in the middle of the neck for an aneurism at the root of that vessel. The successful result of the case was the best proof of the propriety of the operation, which he has since repeated with the same happy result. He has also tied the subclavian artery (which is situated below the collar-bone) for an aneurism of the arteria innominata—a vessel which emerges almost from the heart itself—and the patient was cured. Mr. Wardrop's operation has since been repeated by Dr. Bush, Professor of Anatomy in New York; and by Messrs. Gambert and Evans. The result of all these cases has been such as completely to establish the propriety of his new operation.

Mr. Wardrop's work contains a full account of the history of his views—minute details of the cases and of the operations—with his reasoning on the subject.

The author is certainly entitled to the gratitude of the public at large for thus boldly establishing a method whereby a dreadful and hitherto intractable disease may be cured; and of the medical profession in particular, for thus wiping off one of the opprobria of their science, and for making one of the greatest improvements in the treatment of aneurism which has been introduced into this department of practical surgery since the time of the illustrious Hunter.*

* The discovery of the principles of uniting living surfaces, divided by accident or by operations, the benefits of which are felt in every branch of surgery, as, until then, this department of the healing art was scarcely entitled to the name of science, for the exertions of the surgeon must have been very unsuccessful,—the operation for aneurism, as well as healing by the first intention, are both the fruits of the same mind, which was marked by original genius, and by the most persevering and patient industry. These exertions will ever render the name of Hunter immortal; and it becomes the public, the army, and the navy, to erect a monument to his memory,—as these results of his genius have done more towards the alleviation of human misery than all the systems of medicine that have been written. After the successful performance of amputation at the hip-joint, by Sir Astley Cooper, an operation that was, by the authority of Pott, discarded from surgery,—the introduction of single ligatures in surgery, and with the mode of arranging them, rendered the principle of the illustrious Hunter complete, which was imperfect in its influence until this improvement was accomplished; so that the surgeon, possessing dexterity and anatomical information, has, with the knowledge of these discoveries by Hunter, Wardrop, and others,

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Paris, July 25.

NEVER were the inhabitants of this city at such a loss for expedients to make away with time as at present, for wind and rain most provokingly oppose every effort to banish spleen and get rid of one's self: Ranelagh balls, however, offer a resource to yawning ladies and gentlemen, and have latterly been a *grand repaire* for loungers and *loungresses*. Unfortunately, Mammon (come in what shape he may) finds entrance to these assemblies; so that, as nature provides high-toned gentry with no distinguishing mark of superiority, they are jostled, squeezed, and shouldered, by the plebeian race; and rich dames run the chance of being whirled round in a waltz by a soap-dealer, chandler, or some low son of commerce. It must be truly mortifying for the *superfines* of the age to find formidable rivals in measures of tape, weighers of snuff, sugar, &c.; for these latter can flatter, babble, flutter, dance, swagger, and ogle, with as much ease and grace as the first red-ribanded count; and when decked in a fashionably cut coat, their heels ornamented with bright brass spurs, and their faces set in a frame of black beard shorn after the *Guiche* fashion, may vie with the greatest heroes of the age for preference in ladies' hearts.

On Sunday last I felt much surprised at seeing a pragmatical-looking English person and his three sisters make their appearance, and join the other sinners in sabbath-breaking; but, to do them justice, their feet and consciences appeared at open war: nothing could be more grave or solemn than the countenances of these individuals; they looked as though they imagined the black gentleman was close behind, and that each step brought them nearer to hot quarters. But fashion, it appears, is irresistible, or curiosity—for, even in this light land, a clergyman never partakes of trivial amusements, or is seen at any public place on Sundays.

The museum of the Louvre is about to be shut, on account of repairs, and will not be reopened till October.—Amongst the curiosities of the day is a tooth of Napoleon, which a dentist is said to have sold for five thousand francs to a rich Jew, who has had it set in diamonds, and wears it as a brooch. The bones and the hair of that extraordinary man are in the possession of so many, that he must have had a rare quantity, and in time no doubt they will increase and multiply, as has the holy cross and other holy reliques, of which every nun, priest, and friar, possesses a relic.

Wit is grown very thread-bare: we have new publications by hundreds, but on turning over the leaves you meet with nothing but old acquaintances modernised by some pilfering author.

M. Antommarchi has presented a memoir to the Royal Academy, to prove that it has awarded unjustly the prize of experimental physiology to M. Lippo, for that his doctrines admit of being refuted.

Great preparations are making for the approaching fêtes at Tivoli, her Royal Highness Madame having announced her intention of visiting them the ensuing week: the weather, however, appears determined to counteract M. Robertson's efforts to amuse the public, for we have constant rain and hail, and are shivering and shaking as in the month of November.

extraordinary resources for averting the fatal effects of wounds and accidents. Indeed, under such men as Bell, Cooper, Wardrop, and Lawrence, who have heads to conceive and hands to execute, no man, unless mortally wounded in the head, heart, or great arterial trunk, ought to be despaired of.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT, &c.

To the Editor of the *Literary Gazette*.

33, Lincoln's Inn Fields, July 23d, 1829.

Sir.—You took such very favourable notice of a small pamphlet of mine on Imprisonment for Debt, and the Law of Insolvency, that I am induced to request space for a few remarks on the same subject, arising out of a part of your Saturday's publication. In your Review and analysis of a Treatise on the Police and Crime of the Metropolis, you say—"Among the promoters of crime the debtors are the most zealous, and their operations shew to be chiefly profitable to the legal profession, and comparatively of little utility to creditors. Thirty-four debts of 15,259 discharged insolvents amounted to nearly eleven millions sterling, and the whole property got in by the assignees left only one penny-farthing in the pound to the creditor, without deducting court-fees, &c." I must presume the words "thirty-four" to be a misprint, and that the author wrote "the whole debts," or some equivalent expression, so as to make it intelligible. The statement itself is founded upon a return made to the House of Commons in the year 1823; but it contains not only a misrepresentation of the return (unintentional, no doubt), but also a most erroneous inference therefrom, which it is very material to explain. The number of insolvents (15,259) is nearly correct: it should be 15,698. The amount of debts *as appearing upon their schedules*, is correct enough for the purpose: it is something under ten millions and a half. The sum does not pretend to give an account of "the whole property got in by the assignees," nor was any such return ordered. It was required to contain "an account of the amount of assets divided among the creditors;" but this could not be done, and therefore the following explanation was appended to the return:—"It is important to observe, that the sum stated under this head is made up from only seventy accounts of assignees in town cases and thirty in country cases, which are all that have been filed wherein any dividends are shewn to have been made." It is therefore quite evident that it is most erroneous to divide the total of the debts in 15,698 cases by the total of the dividends paid in 100 of these cases, and then infer the quotient to be the average dividend of the whole. If any such arithmetical process were fairly admissible, I should have a right, after explaining this mistake, to multiply the "penny farthing" by 156, being the proportion which 100 bears to the whole, and then assert the average dividends to be sixteen shillings and a farthing in the pound. But I will not admit this unfair arrangement on the one side, so I reject the advantage derivable from it on the other. The truth is, that the "penny farthing" is in itself a mistake, the real result of the unfair process being only about one farthing and a quarter of a farthing in the pound; and even this, multiplied by the 156, would make the average dividends exceed four shillings in the pound. Still, however, I refuse to admit that averages so taken prove any thing. My object is to shew that arguments founded on such data cannot operate either for or against the principle of the law of insolvency. If this principle be not demonstrably good in itself, no such results ought to support it; and if it be, they ought not to shake it. The author proceeds (as you state) to propose "abolishing compulsory process for recovering sums below a certain amount." I suppose this must mean raising the sum for which an arrest on meane process may be made, from 24*s* to some higher sum. I entirely agree with the author in his object; but I as entirely disagree with him as to the means of effecting it. Merely to raise the amount for which arrest may be made, is to take from a debtor for 20*s*. His present option of preferring to pay him a few weeks later at three times that expense. The author objects to the increase of law costs; and it is because I do so likewise, that I cannot coincide with him in this proposal. The true way to attain our common object, as I have elsewhere endeavoured to shew, is to permit debtors to subject themselves to the law of insolvency *without going to prison at all*, unless under sentence, after fraud or other improper conduct proved against them. Let as much as possible of the present expenses be saved to both creditor and debtor, and let the most efficient means be adopted for making an early and equitable distribution of the property of the latter. It should not be forgotten, that a large proportion of the debtors committed annually to the prisons in London are not inhabitants of the metropolis, but are those who, having been arrested in various counties and liberated on bail, cannot surrender in their discharge except in town. If they then seek the relief afforded by the law of insolvency, it is a general and just complaint that they are held at a distance from their creditors, who must forego opposition, or incur large and needless expense. My proposal would be a complete remedy, by freeing this class from the necessity of surrendering at all; and this, again, would so reduce the numbers committed to the King's Bench and Fleet prisons, as to leave the former quite equal to the reception of the whole. If these were done, the country might save the large expense now proposed to be incurred in building the new Fleet prison in St. George's Fields, except so much as might be a compensation to the officers displaced, until by succession they should be provided with equivalent appointments at the King's Bench. I have only to add my hope that a measure in the support of which humanity and policy are united, and which has been so powerfully advocated by a large portion of the enlightened public press, must at no great distance of time be carried into effect.—I am, sir, &c.

HENRY DANCE.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

RUSSIAN VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY.

Further particulars.*

In the middle of June 1828, the Siniavín had left, for the second time, the harbour of St. Peter and St. Paul, and sailed, with a favourable wind, on its voyage to examine Behring's Straits. The coast of Kamtschatka afforded the navigators a very striking prospect. From the centre of Avatscha Bay they had a view of five immense mountains, which rise, insulated and steep, above some lower eminences. On the south side of the bay stands Viliuschinskaja, a magnificent peak, covered with eternal snow, which, by trigonometrical measurement, is 6342 feet in height. The Kamtschadalas relates with dread the traditions relative to the subterraneous spirits in the interior of this mountain; but the mind of the spectator who visits these countries for the first time is seized and enchain'd by very different feelings, which no language can express. These are mountains which rise singly from the plain, on a level with the sea, and whose ice-crowned summits are lost in the azure vault of the firmament. The heart throbs with double violence, hitherto unfelt and almost painful emotion overpowers the astonished spectator; yet he cannot tear himself away from this sublime scene. In the starry night, in which the contours of the mountains are strongly marked, in consequence of the dazzling whiteness of the snow, he appears to forget the stars of heaven, because he cannot abstract his eyes from the colossi of the earth. One of these mountains, the Karakaja, which is but little inferior in elevation to the Peak of Teneriffe, as it measures 11,468 feet—constantly emits columns of smoke from its northern side, though profound silence and tranquillity prevail in its interior. This is not the case with its next neighbour, the Avatschanka (the burning), whose top, enveloped in thick clouds of smoke, threw out, so recently as last year, immense masses of fire, and spread terror and consternation among the inhabitants. The lowest mountain, which slopes down to the sea-coast, is the Kaselskaja. But the most gigantic of them, which is visible at a distance of 160 sea miles, and which, at the same time, announces the terrible revolutions which this peninsula has undergone, is the Kluscheskaja, or Kamtschatskaja, which has but very lately thrown out ashes and lava. Its summit, which is involved in thick clouds of smoke, is more elevated than that of Mont Blanc, being 16,542 feet above the level of the sea. But the Swiss mountain must make a very different impression from that which this Asiatic volcano excites, because the latter rises immediately from the ocean, while the foot of Mont Blanc is concealed by considerable mountains which stand before it.

On the 23d of June they reached the rocky island of Kavaga, in lat. 58° 59' north, which has no trees, but is covered with thickets, that afford a retreat, but very seldom disturbed, to innumerable bears, foxes, and martoms. In the bay of the same name is the small and almost inaccessible island, called Werchatura-skaja, where the valuable black foxes are said to abound.

On the 11th of July they observed Cape Thadeus, which forms the southern point of the Sea of Anadir, and was found by observation to be in 61° 40' north latitude. On the 14th they described the snowy plains of the Island of St. Lawrence; on the 15th they enjoyed the view of both continents at

once on Gwosdels Islands, which lie between them; and on the 16th they cast anchor in St. Lawrence Bay, in latitude 65° 37'. Here they for the first time had some intercourse with the Tchoukches, a fine vigorous race of men, who received them very kindly, and during their temporary stay kept up a most friendly intercourse with them. This nation is usually divided into two tribes, distinguished by the name of the Sitting, and the Reindeer Tchoukches. The former dwell in the most sterile spots on the sea-coast, and in their leather boats navigate the ocean, which affords them every thing they need. The sea furnishes them the materials for their boats, their houses, and their clothing; food, arms, and fuel, by the capture of whales, walruses, and seals. The Reindeer Tchoukches traverse the continent with their numerous herds; they differ both in language and manners from the others. They are far more warlike, but carry on in an amicable manner the intercourse and trade between the Russians living on the Kolyma and elsewhere, and the tribes dwelling on the coasts, the produce of whose fishery is absolutely necessary to them. There is no difference between the two tribes, either in external appearance or in dress. The intercourse with the Russians is indispensable to both, partly to obtain iron and copper goods, and partly, and indeed chiefly, for tobacco, of which both sexes are passionately fond. For a few leaves of Russian tobacco and some needles, any thing may be obtained from them.

Thick fogs prevented them from continuing their operations on the coast. After cruising about a long time, they at length cast anchor on the 27th, at the entrance of the Bay of Mtschiginski, intending, as it was then late in the day, to enter the port next morning; but a very violent wind blowing from shore would not permit it; and after losing a whole day, they found it necessary to abandon the attempt and steer to the south, having little time to spare. In lat. 64° 47' they came to an apparent inlet, which had been already observed by Clarke. They immediately sent out boats to look for a harbour, in which they succeeded. The following day the naturalists made an excursion, and convinced themselves that what had hitherto been taken for a part of the continent, was in fact an island. On the 29th they changed their anchoring-place, and perceived, from the hills, that they were in a considerable channel, formed by two large islands and the continent of Asia. This channel, which contains a number of excellent harbours, received the name of Siniavín Strait; and in the time that intervened to the 6th of August, it was accurately surveyed by the captain and the officers. Cape Mertens forms the southern entrance of this channel, which ever since the time of Cook has been taken for a bay. Here they left Behring's Straits, sailed on the 9th of August round Cape Ischakotak, and were again in the Sea of Anadir. On the 14th they were off a cape where Behring had been exactly 100 years before, on the same day at noon; for which reason Captain Lütke called it Behring's Cape. On the 16th they reached the great, and hitherto undescribed, bay of the Holy Cross, where they remained till the 5th of September, and made an accurate survey of it; from which it appeared, that it extended further to the north than East Cape in Behring's Straits, and reached the polar circle. Here, however, the winter overtook them with all its northern terrors—violent storms, heavy snow, and thick fogs; and they were compelled, to their great regret, to

* See *Lit. Gaz.* Jan. 10, 1829.

leave these dangerous coasts, on which they had remained longer than any preceding navigators. It was not till the 23d that they happily arrived in the harbour of St. Peter and St. Paul, where, to their great joy, they found the Moller, which had returned to that place on the 20th of August. They intended to put to sea again on the 28th of October, to survey some of the western Carolines, and then return to Europe by the way of Manilla and the Straits of Sunda. Not a single man had died on board the Siniavin during this long voyage.*

SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION IN GREECE.

June 21.

THE members of the scientific commission are all engaged in excursions. Colonel Bory St. Vincent, accompanied by four of his colleagues, Messrs. Virlet, Baccuet, De Launay, and Brûlé, has succeeded in travelling through Maina, where he was very well received by all the chiefs, especially by Captain Mourtzinos. He took advantage of these favourable circumstances to ascend Mount Taygetus, which had never before been done by any known traveller. These gentlemen, after four days' extreme fatigue, and in spite of the snows with which Taygetus is still covered, reached the summit, and were able correctly to measure the highest mountain in the Morea. They are at present in the heart of Arcadia; and have measured Mount Lyceus and the ancient Corylius. Messrs. Blouet, Dubois, and Amaury Duval, with their assistants, are at Olympia, where some excavations have afforded them very satisfactory results. They have discovered a temple, which they suppose to be that of the Olympian Jupiter. The length of this monument appears to be two hundred and forty feet; the columns are twenty-one feet in circumference. M. Baroisi, one of the members of the section of architecture, came, a fortnight ago, to Modon, to ask of General Schneider for a supply of tools, to be able to continue, with more activity, the interesting excavations which they intend to make.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA FOR AUGUST.

23d day, 23 hrs. 33 min.—the sun enters the sign Virgo, according to the fixed Zodiac; its true place in the heavens will be in Leo, about two degrees east of Regulus, a star of the first magnitude, situate nearly in the ecliptic.

Lunar Phases and Conjunctions.

	D.	H.	M.
First Quarter in Libra	7	10	13
Full Moon in Capricornus	14	10	26
Last Quarter in Taurus	21	1	35
New Moon in Leo	28	20	55

The moon will be in conjunction with

	D.	H.	M.
Venus in Leo	7	1	20
Jupiter in Scorpio	9	1	0
Saturn in Cancer	26	20	0
Mars in Leo	23	13	52
Mercury in Leo	29	16	30
Venus in Virgo	31	12	30

11th day, 8 hrs.—Mercury in conjunction with Saturn; 19th day, 23 hrs.—with Mars; 20th day, 12 hrs. 15 min.—in superior conjunction with the sun. Venus is approaching the earth, its brilliancy and diameter increasing; it will soon be conspicuous as an evening star. 15th day—11 digits west illuminated, and apparent diameter 11'.

18th day, 15 hrs. 45 min.—Mars in conjunction. Jupiter still continues to send forth its streams of radiance soon after sunset, and, as the darkness increases, forms a remarkable contrast of colour with the red star Antares, which is to the south of the planet. 29th day,

* The Siniavin arrived in the channel about ten days ago, on its way to St. Petersburg.—*Ed. L. G.*

19 hrs. 15 min.—in quadrature. The following are the only visible eclipses of the satellites during the month:—

First Satellite, Emerson	D.	H.	M.	S.
Third Satellite, Emerson	8	9	7	28

19th day, 8 hrs. 30 min.—a curious configuration will occur of the satellites; the first satellite will be on the disc, the fourth in the shadow, and the second and third at an equal distance east and west of the primary.

Saturn is too near the sun to be seen.

Uranus is in a favourable position for telescopic observation; the two stars in the head of the Goat point nearly to it in a southern direction. This planet passes the meridian at the following times respectively:—

D.	H.	M.	D.	H.	M.
1	11	40	1	11	0

Occultation of Aldebaran.—21st day—this beautiful star, and some small ones near it, will be occulted: the moon will rise a short time after midnight, when the star will be observed a little to the east of it. As the immersion will not occur till after the sun has risen, a telescope will be necessary to observe the phenomenon. The following will be the times of occultation, as computed for four principal observatories:—

Sidereal Time.	Mean Solar Time.
Greenwich .. 3 45	12 44 Immersion.
.. 2	19 1 Emergence.
Bedford 3 45	17 44 Immersion.
.. 5 2	19 1 Emergence.
Edinburgh .. 3 30	17 20 Immersion.
.. 4 46	18 45 Emergence.
Dublin 3 12	17 11 Immersion.
.. 4 28	18 27 Emergence.

J. T. B.

LITERARY AND LEARNED.

ASIATIC SOCIETY.

JULY 25. Sir Alexander Johnston, V.P. in the chair.—Mr. J. F. Davis, late of China, read the second part of his Essay on the Poetry of the Chinese: in the course of which he introduced the translation of a Chinese poem, descriptive of London, written in 1813 by a Chinese who had visited the metropolis; and an abstract of another poem, illustrative of some peculiarities in the manners of Europeans, written by a Hong merchant who had never been out of China. The latter, as might be expected, excited the risible muscles of the members who heard it read. Sir Alexander Johnston presented to the Society a continuation of the series of maps and charts of Ceylon, formerly presented by him. Colonel Fitzclarenc presented his Hussar's Life on Service; Mr. Ackermann, of the Strand, a very elegant engraving, representing the introduction of Trial by Jury and the Abolition of Domestic Slavery in the Island of Ceylon; Mr. Klaproth, his Critical Observations upon some recent Discoveries in Egyptian Hieroglyphics: the Transactions of the Medico-Botanical Society, and several other works of literature and art, were likewise presented. The Rev. Dr. Mill, principal of Bishop's College, Calcutta, was introduced, and took his seat as a member. M. Caesar Moreau was elected a foreign member; Don N. Pereira, Dr. Waitz, and Lieutenant Rowlandson, were elected corresponding members. The worthy chairman then declared the meeting adjourned till the first Saturday in December.



THE NIGER.*

Margate, July 24, 1829.

SIR,—An article has appeared in the last Quarterly Review, which conveys so erroneous

* The question discussed in Sir Rufane Donkin's letter is of such general interest, that we cheerfully afford it a

a view of what a late publication of mine—on the "Course and probable Termination of the Niger"—really is, that I beg leave, through your Journal, to make the following observations, in the hope that they may meet the eyes of some of those who may see the critique and not my book.

My censor begins by stating, that my "conclusions are contrary to known facts;" and soon after we are told, that "the Greek, Roman, and Arab (authors), having no personal knowledge of this subject, ran riot in speculative geography, and, for want of facts, indulged in the wildest fancies."

Now, many of the facts on which I have reasoned were drawn from those Greek, Latin, and Arab writers; I supposing, as others had done before me, that those writers were entitled to some credit; but I find myself suddenly deprived of all aid from them by the above sweeping anathema, and Herodotus and Ptolemy fall out of my hands, as insignificant personages as

"fortemque Gyan, fortemque Cloanthum."

Here then I err—not in drawing "conclusions contrary to facts," but in citing as facts the "fancies" of dreaming authors! This is a destruction of literary material for which I confess I was not prepared: but as a considerable portion of my work is founded on facts taken from these condemned authors, I hope and believe it will not be found that I have come to false conclusions on those facts.

But it appears afterwards, that some of the "known facts," in defiance of which I have come to my conclusions, relate to the course of the Niger as detailed in Captain Clapperton's last journey; and my censor contends, that the Niger or Quorra does not flow into the Tchad by the Yeon, but, if at all, by the Shary. I need hardly say, that before I published a work on the Niger, I had read what Denham and Clapperton had written; and, as well as I recollect here, Denham was so convinced that the Yeon was the Niger, that he sent a bottle of its water to a friend as the true Niger water; and the weight of testimony that the Yeon is the Niger still appears to me to be so strong, that my opinion remains unshaken. Indeed, if any reliance is to be placed either on Major Denham's map, or on his account of his journey to Mandara, the junction of the Quorra or Niger with the Shary is impossible. However, let the Niger run into the Tchad by the Shary—all I ask is, let it run into the Tchad by *any* channel—for a most material part of my Dissertation turns on the channel which I think I have proved to *flow out of the Tchad* to the eastward,—circumstance of the greatest importance; for, if I have shewn the existence of such a channel, whither does it conduct the Niger? I thought I had found an undoubted recipient for it in the Nile of Bornou; but the Quarterly Review tells me, to my surprise, that I must not reckon on any such river (p. 225)! for that the only known rivers in Bornou are the Yeon and the Shary: at the same time, too, the lake Dombo is pronounced a non-entity! To be thus deprived of rivers, lakes, and authors, to which all writers on African geography have hitherto been accustomed to look up as entities and certainties, leaves me with very scanty materials indeed for a dissertation on the Niger; and all I can do is to appeal from such a dictum to the authorities I have cited on the subject of the Nile

place, entertaining great esteem for the talents of the writer; though, while we give publicity to his able and gentlemanlike defence, we take no part as combatants against our brother Reviewer.—*Ed. L. G.*

of Bornou and the lake Domboo, in the existence of both of which I continue to believe.

Next comes a remark—parenthetically—that the Niger and Nile of Bornou must “run a little up hill, to be sure,” to reach the Gulf of Sidra. We are not told how this slope *upwards* towards the coast is known or has been ascertained. My belief is, that Africa, like most other countries, *falls* towards its coasts; and in my *hypothesis* of the Niger running into the Gulf of Sidra—for I give it as an hypothesis only, even in my very title-page, although I am dealt with as if I had advanced it as a fact—I suppose that river to be still in its ancient deep bed, though covered over with sand in the catastrophe described by Herodotus, but of whose authority I have been deprived in the general proscription of the Greeks and Romans. A river so covered over by sand may surely be *supposed* to continue its way to the sea in its old bed, *without running up hill*. And as to the state in which Messrs. Beechey are said (Quarterly Review, p. 238) to have found the coast, I have no where implied that *now* the influx of the Niger was visible from “plashy quicksands;” on the contrary, if the river be there at all, it must be covered over by hills of consolidated sand, the accumulation of ages, and which are still accumulating; and any one who will look into my Dissertation will see a river, not “running up hill,” but *hills running over a river*; or, in plain words, hills of sand have come to and covered the river. But this notion of water “running up hill” was too good a joke to be lost, although to me it had not the charm of novelty, having been let off on me many weeks ago, and *answered* by me at the time as I have here answered it. I wish when the writer of the article in the Quarterly was pleased to designate me (p. 237) as “Amicus Plato,” he had recollect that there was a still more important personage in the sentence—an “Amicus”—but who appears to have been sacrificed for a joke, and that a stale one!

As I have not Messrs. Beechey’s work here, nor indeed have I any books—I cannot say how far off, nor in what direction, is placed the rocky range, 400 or 500 feet high, on the skirts of the Desert (p. 258); but if these rocky hills be continuous, and if they cross my *assumed* course of the river, there is an end of my hypothesis, and I shall abandon it as readily as I took it up, whenever it is disproved by facts: but if this range be, as I conjecture it to be, at a considerable distance from the coast, nothing short of an actual inspection of the range itself can prove it to be continuous. And, after all, supposing this range really to be in the way, have I not as great a claim to an opening in it as my censor has to suppose one in the great central chain, which is many thousand feet high, and above a hundred miles broad, to let through the Quorra into the Bight of Benin (p. 239) to join the Formosa, which makes such advances up the country, by what authority I know not, in the map appended to Captain Clapperton’s book?

I am further censured for speaking slightly of D’Anville and Rennell. I appeal to my book in proof of my having spoken of them with the greatest respect. But when I have shewn, that in regard to the Ptolemaic geography these distinguished geographers have committed no fewer than ten material errors (I could have much increased the number), citing Ptolemy as their authority—surely when I saw that Ptolemy gave no such authority, I was not to be deterred by great names from doing justice to the Alexandrian philosopher.

But I must hasten to conclude, and leave many points unanswered; particularly the attack on my rectification of Ptolemy’s longitude. The merits of this part of the subject can be understood only by reading what *both* have said. I must just observe, however, that my reasonings and facts on this subject are by no means confined to the western coast, but affect the whole of the interior of Africa, the geography of which I have rectified, as far as Ptolemy is concerned, by drawing his first meridian through the westernmost of the Cape Verds; and the number of concordant instances cited by me seems to place this part of my Dissertation on a foundation little short of demonstration; whereas, if the first meridian be drawn through Ferro, my censor will find, if Ptolemy is to be listened to at all, that a number of places mentioned by that geographer, some of which I have noticed, would be transferred into the valley of the Nile of Egypt; and this will still be the result, even after admitting the proposition made in the Quarterly Review, of paring away several degrees of longitude from the western coast (p. 231); for, however this paring away may affect the coast and the mouth of the Salathus, it leaves all my reasoning on the interior untouched.

I have now only to notice two complimentary passages which have got, I know not by what chance, into the phial of wrath which has been poured out on my small octavo, and which appear like oases in the desert,—but like oases which are not presented to the African wanderer until every attempt had been made to beat out his brains and to render him insensible to even the most refreshing breeze. But one of these compliments is loaded with a rider—it is that in which the writer is pleased to say that I am “a scholar;” but immediately to this supposed scholarship is attributed my predilection for “ancient classical authorities.” Although I feel that my title to scholarship is very slender, I plead guilty to the charge of the predilection of which I am accused; but not guilty to the charge of “disregard to modern authorities.” If I have cited in my work Herodotus and Ptolemy, I have also cited Denham and Clapperton, and, unhappily for him, Browne, who, though a modern, falls under the anathema (p. 235). However, my scholarship, humble as I know it to be, will not allow me to subscribe to the critique on the word *ενθεάλλεται*. I have no Greek author or lexicon with me, but, taking the word *ενθεάλλεται* as it strikes me now, I cannot persuade myself that it means to “suppose” or to “conjecture,” in the sense given to it in the Quarterly Review. The preposition and the verb composing the word mean neither more nor less than “to throw together,” in Latin *con* and *iacio*—out of which I cannot, by any analogy, make any thing like “conjecture” or “supposition.” I believe, indeed, the word sometimes means to “consider;” but then the word “consider” has no reference to opinion or “conjecture,” but to a deep operation of the mind when it is wholly condensed and fixed on one subject; in which sense I think I have met with it either in Aristotle or Thucydides: but I here speak under correction, as I trust wholly to memory and a faint recollection.

But I will here finish by expressing my hope that those who may read the critique will forbear to make up their minds till they have looked into the work criticised. I hope and believe that it is written without any thing like pretension, and I cannot help flattering myself, that those who may read my Dissertation will acquit me of the sweeping accusation

of having “come to conclusions contrary to known facts.” I remain, sir, &c.

R. S. DONKIN.

FINE ARTS.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Scraps, “to drive away the heavy thought of care.” Designed, etched, and published, by D. C. Johnston, Boston.

MR. JOHNSTON appears to be the American Cruickshanks: undoubtedly much inferior to our witty and celebrated countryman, particularly in his qualifications as an artist; but by no means destitute of humour, for all that. Of course, the most entertaining of his “scraps” on this side of the water will be those which relate to Transatlantic manners. Among the best of these is, “A fancy ball, given by ‘de fust coloured circles’ at Philadelphia.” It represents one of those *saturnalia*, at which the American slaves lose, in the exuberance of their temporary gaiety, all sense of their real condition. One “little nigger, wid de big osier for coat on,” is “Giner Washinton.” Another, dressed like Napoleon, and asking a crony, “Cuff,” what cracker you tink I am? is answered, “Why, you legs looks like Bony-parts.” A third accosts a sort of Hotentot angel, —“Miss Philisse, shall I hab de fiddle ob you hand? I sposse by you beautiful wings you stain de cracker ob de butterfly:”—on which a dingy rival of the lady’s observes, aside—“De butterfly! de lord know she look more like de butterfirkin.” “A New Way to pay Old Debts,” is comical enough. “Here’s your bill, sir,” exclaims an urchin, cap in hand, to a lanky creditor, who seems to be a Frenchman without a sou; “master says will you please to pay it, cause he kind a wants the money?” “You littel impertinent jack-monkey,” is the courteous reply, “go tell you master for pay his own debts, and no trouble himself bout mine.” “Making use of a friend” is no bad exhibition of contrasted impudence and meekness: “I’ve broke your rotten wheelbarrow, usin’ on’t; you’ll please to git it mended right off, cause I’ll want to borrow it agin this afternoon.” “Friend, it shall be repaired and sent to thee.” There are in all thirty-six “scraps;” and although some of them are rather tame, they manifest upon the whole considerable talent.

Sketches of Cattle. Drawn from Nature and on Stone by J. F. Herring, Animal Portrait-Painter, Doncaster. S. and J. Fuller. FIVE lithographic plates, full of character, and highly creditable to Mr. Herring’s talents.

The Right Hon. Caroline Harriet, Viscountess Eastnor. Engraved by Scriver, from a Painting by Mrs. Carpenter. M. Colmaghi. A FINE little specimen (being the fifty-eighth of Portraits of the Female Nobility in *La Belle Assemblée*) of Mrs. Carpenter’s power and taste as a painter, and of Mr. Scriver’s talents as an engraver.

Caricatures.—Great political struggles and changes make the harvest for the caricaturist; and the late season has been prolific of these whimsical signs of the times. Among the best which have appeared is a series by Paul Pry (an anonyme of potency in this career of art), referring to coach-driving, the Premier being “the man who drives the Sovereign;” Mr. Peel, his cad; a lady, the guard; Lord Eldon, driver of the opposition; and the King himself, a *swell*.

* Not the slightest resemblance of our portly and hospitable friend at the Freemasons’—*Ed. L. G.*

The popularity of this set has stimulated the amusing Paul to try his hand, and very successfully, on another class of ten characters, *i.e.* making his majesty, his ministers, &c. parish officers. These are very clever:—the present Lord Chancellor is beadle; Prince Leopold, a charity boy; the Duke of Wellington, Caleb Quotem, parish clerk; Brougham, one of the poor mending the highways; Mr. Peel, Dusty Bob; the Attorney-General, the attorney in general to the parish; Lord Eldon, watchman; and the King, overseer. The drolery of these representations, and the smartness of their accessories, even after the tug of the party war is relaxed, bid fair to render them equally successful with their precursors; and, indeed, though we rarely notice such things, the talent displayed by this Mr. Pry is deserving of record, as restoring something of the better days of caricature.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

LINES

Written in a Copy of Milton with Illustrations by
JOHN MARTIN, Esq.

Poet! of glorious dreams!
I gaze upon thy page with deep delight,
Feeling as if the rush of mighty streams
Dazzled my sight.

Poet! what soul, save thine,
Was ever filled with such imaginings?
Who ever sought so closely to entwine
Earthly with hidden things?

Is there a brain on earth
In which such gorgeous fancies e'er have
wrought?

Is there a spirit that could e'er give birth
To such o'erpowering thought?

There is:—turn to this page,
And look on the rich visions pictured there;
An equal genius of an after age
Hath risen thy fame to share.

Poet! thou didst but give
The outline of the beings of thy brain;
Painter! twain to bid them rise and live,
And o'er our senses reign.

For there is a strong spell
In their deep, voiceless language to our hearts;
We gaze upon them till our bosoms swell,
And the slow tear-drop starts.

Painter! thy heart is cast
In the same heavenly mould as was his own;
From him to thee his mighty spirit past,
That thou might take its tone,

And seize the thoughts that were
In quick creation thronging in that soul,
And subject all their will and feverish stir
To thy control.

Thy name shall ever be
Mingled with his beside his hallow'd shrine,
And glory such as his, immortally,
Painter! is thine.

M. A. BROWNE.

Worton Lodge, Isleworth.

SKETCHES OF SOCIETY.

To the Editor, &c.

REGAL FRATRICIDE LEGALISED IN
TURKEY.

“Le lâche et cruel Mahomet III fit périr ses dix-neuf frères.”

SIR.—In your recent extracts from Macfarlane's Constantinople, I observe that the writer dwells with just indignation on the sanguinary character of the Ottoman rulers, and quotes Mahomet III. as its signal exemplar.* The

unnatural practice of princely fratricide, however, was legalised by the Turkish legislators more than 130 years before his time, and was obviously borrowed from the bloody precedents established by their eastern forefathers.

The ancient annals of commonwealths, as well as despotic governments, afford numerous instances of fratricides committed with a view to political ends. Few will have forgotten how warmly some writers have sought to extenuate, whilst others have indignantly condemned, Timoleon's slaying of Timophanes, the Athenian tyrant; or how every pen has sentenced to unqualified abhorrence Gentius the Illyrian, and Perseus the Macedonian, who steeped their swords in a brother's blood, “*quo tuitus regnaret.*” But the Eastern satrap far outdid their rivals in the West, and the mighty monarchs of Persia, in particular, outraged the laws of nature without a scruple, whenever they deemed the death of a brother calculated to enhance the stability of their blood-stained sovereignties. One of the earliest tales of horror which disgraces the page of Persian story, records the parricide perpetrated by Darius and his fifty brothers on his aged parent Artaxerxes; in retaliation for which, we are told that Ochus, who had seized upon the vacant crown, put the fifty murderers, his brothers, and their wives and children, without distinction of age or sex, to instant death. Again, as Justinus informs us, Ferhad, or Phrahates IV., united in his single person the execrable pre-eminence of being a parricide, filicide, and fratricide; for his father, son, and thirty brothers, fell victims to his remorseless cupidity. It is observed by the historian on this occasion, that it would seem as if increased lustre shone from the Persian diadem whenever it begirt a parricidal or fratricidal brow. The code of Persian despotism was, however, a stranger to any legislative enactment by which the murder of a man's nearest kin was adjudged to be a justifiable means of giving stability to thrones; such a doctrine as this was reserved to form a horribly-distinguishing feature of the canons of Turkish jurisprudence, as propounded by the conqueror of Constantinople, Mahomet II. “*The learned in the law,*” he decreed, “*have in general declared, that whosoever amongst my illustrious children and descendants shall hereafter wield a sceptre, may cause his brothers to be put to death, in order to provide for the peace of mankind; and they are to govern themselves accordingly.*” Othman, the founder of the Ottoman empire, had set the first example of ridding one's self of troublesome kindred, by the assassination of his uncle; and Bajazet, “*the lightning-flasher,*” the first example of fratricide, by murdering his brother upon his accession to the imperial turban. Mahomet the Second, his great grandson, however, was not content with simply treading in his steps, but determined that fratricide should thenceforwards be perpetrated according to law, and that his own example should stand forth as its earliest precedent.

The melancholy history of Zizim, the brother of Mahomet's successor, Bajazet II., by whom the infamous Alexander VI., Borgia, was bribed to administer a poisoned chalice to the persecuted prince, must be familiar to your readers. But less so, in all likelihood, the atrocious conduct of Selim I. towards his brothers and nephews, of whose melancholy fate I claim the privilege of presenting you with a brief narrative.

“Selim,” says his historian, Dachemabi, “was a man of lofty bearing, an enterprising

spirit, and a ready judgment, with much genius for poetry, and of deep penetration; but fiery, irritable, and overbearing in his temperament.” We require no better illustration of the latter qualities in his character, than what passed between him and Pirpasha, his grand vizier, when the minister once observed to him, between earnestness and joking, “I am aware, my lord Padishah, that some day or other you will take occasion to put an end to your poor slave; could you not vouchsafe me four-and-twenty hours' notice or so, that I may set my account in order with this world and the next?” The sultan laughed aloud at Pirpasha's well-founded apprehensions, and replied, “It's very true, I have long had this thing in mind, but I have no one fit to replace you in the grand viziership; otherwise it would be an easy matter for me to accede to your wishes!”

The cool-blooded ferocity with which this ruffian set about the murder of his five nephews, is thus narrated by Menavino:—“On the Turkish sabbath (November 27th, 1512) five chiefs of the janissaries received orders to seize upon the five princes at Brusa, and bring them to the palace. One was seven years of age, and the others twice and thrice as old. The whole of them were entrapped and confined in a palace, and kept ready for slaughtering the next day. The youngest fell upon his knees before the two executioners and entreated his life might be spared, as he was ready to serve the sultan faithfully for an asper a-day. Mohammed (a youth of great promise, about twenty years old), when his executioners approached him, broke the arm of one of them, and with a knife inflicted a mortal wound on the other. Selim, who was feasting his eyes on the slaughter of his nephews from the adjoining apartment, sent additional assassins to complete the tragedy; the princes' hands were bound, and the bloody deed consummated without further peril to the assassin's own lives.”

Selim's brother, Korkud, having been hunted from his palace at Magnesia, was discovered in a cavern with his faithful companion Piale, and conducted to Brusa. “As he drew near to the city,” say the Turkish annalists, “the Kapidishibashi Sinan was despatched to meet him, apparently as the harbinger of a fraternal welcome, but, in truth, as the bearer of sentence of death. Sinan contrived to get Piale away from his lord during the night, and then roused the prince with the tidings of his doom. Korkud solicited an hour's delay, set himself down, and composed a poetical plaint to his brother, upbraiding him bitterly with his treachery. On the ensuing morning he was laid a corpse at his brother's feet, and the verses were delivered to his murderer, as his last bequest. Tears, such as the remorseful or hypocrite can summon at command, fell down his cheeks: mourning for three days was ordered; and fifteen Turkomans, who had betrayed the prince's place of refuge, and arrived at Brusa to claim their recompence, were executed. The faithful Piale never ceased to deplore the loss of his master; nor, until the last hour of his life, to watch on the spot where Korkud's remains were entombed.”

Selim's only surviving brother, Achmet, the governor of Amasia, having raised the standard of revolt, was encountered and defeated by him not far from Brusa, and in his flight fell into a stream, when he was captured. He requested to be conducted into his brother's presence; but his captor refused the request, saying, “he should receive investiture of a sand.

* June 20th, 1829, p. 401.

shak" (or principality), "as beffited an Ottoman prince." These words were his death-warrant; and the same Sinan who had been Korkud's executioner was now employed to perform a similarly bloody office. Achmet drew from his finger a costly ring, esteemed equal to a year's tribute from Rumili in value, and delivered it to his executioner, as a legacy to his unnatural brother. His body was deposited beside the remains of his five nephews, in the tomb of Amurath II., at Brusa.

These anecdotes will suffice as a passing comment on Mahomet's law of regal fratricide; and I add, that the reigning sultan also "has governed himself accordingly." — I am, sir, &c. Q. E. D.

July 27th, 1829.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The accounts of the late aquatic Horticultural fête have been produced, examined, passed, and published; and certainly they appear to be such as not to justify any repetition of these silly exhibitions. The pecuniary part of the transaction is, briefly, that 4,438 tickets were sold at various prices, (from the original price of a single guinea to the huckster-like advance of two guineas, when the state of the market supported an increase,) and produced 5,1857. 8s. 6d. Of the purchasers, only 3,644 presented themselves at the gardens; some 800 persons having the good sense to put up with their first loss and stay away. Mr. Gunter received 3,106L 12s. for the provender; other expenses were estimated at no less than 1,594L 19s. 4d., "including 346L for work done expressly for the fête;" (what was the rest for, if not for the fête?) and the Society netted a nominal balance of 123L 17s. 6d.

Such are the results of an affair which is not so much to be regretted for the trouble and expense incurred for so trifling a profit, as for its inconsistency with the character of the Society, and its sure tendency to lower it, not only in the opinion of the most judicious of its friends, but in that of the public at large. What is the design of this national Institution? To improve the horticultural productions of the country — to introduce new fruits, and vegetables, and flowers, and to cultivate the best of those which are already in existence, till our gardens should boast of all that was gratifying to the taste, beautiful to the sight, and useful for consumption, which our climate permitted us to enjoy. And what connexion can such shows have with such objects? None whatever. On the contrary, they tend to retard, if not destroy them. For months previous to the fête, and for months after, the gardeners, instead of attending to their duties, are employed in preparations for the entertainment: pitching tents, making promenades, dressing borders, and other ridiculous as well as injurious works; and for months after, they are employed in remedying the damages done by several thousand persons trampling over the grounds, and (when wet, as is usual) reducing them to the state of a morass, unfit for the growth of the commonest and hardiest plants. The 123L 17s. 6d. will go a very small way towards repairing the damages done in every corner of the garden. Far better would it be to afford some proofs of the scientific success of this Institution, than to be frittering away its interests in fêtes, which can only enhance the consequence of a few busy individuals, while it offends the judgments of a majority of the oldest members, who care not for seeing a display of fine fruits, &c. from every garden round

but from their own, which costs so much, and, as far as we can perceive, has literally done nothing for our national horticulture.

DRAMA.

KING'S THEATRE.

On Thursday Cimarosa's *Gli Horazj e Curi-azi* was produced here with considerable *éclat*: so that it cannot justly be said we have been doomed to hear nothing but the compositions of Rossini this season. On the contrary, with a laudable zeal to produce novelty, the manager has given the lovers of Mozart the music of that great composer, and has agreeably varied the performances with Cimarosa and Zangerelli. Pisaroni and Curioni sustained the brunt of this opera in a very able manner; though the beautiful trio, "O dolce Caro i stante," was the only piece which obtained an encore. To-night finishes these entertainments.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.

A very pleasant translation of *Le plus beau Jour de ma Vie* was produced here on Wednesday evening, by Mr. Buckstone, the author of *Luke the Labourer*, and several other very clever pieces, at the minor theatres. His style is scarcely polished enough for Haymarket comedy; and were we inclined to be hypercritical, we might point out many discrepancies in the drawing of the principal personages of his drama. The effect of the whole, however, acted so admirably as it was by Liston, Mrs. Glover, Mrs. Humby, and we are bound to say, Mrs. Tayleure, who filled up a natural little sketch in the most natural and, consequently, most perfect style, was so amusing, that we only allude to the blemishes as trifles to be avoided in future; and heartily subscribe to the very favourable opinion which was unequivocally expressed by "a numerous and fashionable audience." The play-bills themselves cannot say more, and may certainly say as much, for *The happiest Day of my Life*.

FRENCH OPERA.

THE French papers deny the accuracy of the report that M. Laurent will cease from this year to be the manager of the Théâtre Italien in Paris. They say that his contract will not

expire until October 1830; when he will be succeeded by M. Robert, who has for a long time been attached to the theatre in the quality of inspector, and who is an enlightened amateur, sufficiently zealous, musically speaking, to regard his speculation less as the source of suddenly becoming rich, than as affording him the means of furnishing the Parisians with an excellent Italian opera. The Théâtre Italien will open on the 15th of August, with Donzelli, Zuchelli, Sontag, and Pisaroni. Malibran will not appear until a later period, wishing for some rest, and also being engaged, it is said, at three concerts, for the benefit of the poor, which are to take place in the neighbourhood of London, and for which she is to receive the moderate sum of 25,000 francs — 1000 guineas! The French critics urge M. Laurent to endeavour to exchange Donzelli and Zuchelli for Rubini and Lablache; and assert that the latter two, with Tamburini, are the only singers for the possession of whom Italy is at present to be envied. Madame Fodor, who is at Naples, is beginning to recover her voice, which her visit to northern climates had veiled.

PAPAL THEATRES. — A work published in Rome, in 1827, contains the following passage:

"What keeps the public away from the theatres here is the new papal regulation respecting theatrical performances. According to these, if any person sitting in the pit should rise and remain standing, he is liable to a penalty of five crowns; any person keeping on his hat is to be immediately expelled from the theatre; and any actor guilty of an indecent manner or expression, is liable to be sent to the galleys for five years; for a blow given in the theatre, the punishment is ten years at the galleys; for entering the theatre armed, the galleys for life; and for an armed person wounding another in the theatre, the punishment of death; and every expression of applause or censure is prohibited, on pain of six months' imprisonment."

THE MELODISTS' CLUB.

THE last meeting of the Melodists' Club for the season took place on Thursday at Freemasons' Tavern, where fifty members and their friends sat down to dinner. The musical entertainments of the evening, under the direction of T. Cooke, were of the most delightful description: glees by Leete, King, Taylor, &c., were varied with comic and other songs by Weekes, Blewitt, &c., and two masterly performances on the flute by Nicholson.

M. CHABERT.

ON Saturday we again witnessed this person's swallowing a grain of phosphorus, in the presence of Mr. Farraday, Mr. Petigrew, and other scientific individuals, who were all perfectly convinced that no deception was used. No ill results ensued.* M. Chabert next entered an oven, in which he remained within a few seconds of eight minutes; during which two dishes of beef-steaks, in tin covers, which he took in with him, were completely cooked. Some burning wood-ashes remained in the oven, and might assist this process; but still the heat was excessive, and apparently above the power of a human creature to bear; for after Chabert came out, a thermometer placed on an iron stool in the centre rose to 230°, or full 50° higher than any former experiment of the kind with which we are acquainted.

VARIETIES.

Crabs migratory through the air. — The newspapers have got hold of a strange story of three live crabs having fallen amidst a shower of rain near Ryegate in Surry. The fact, as the tellers of extraordinary tales sometimes say, stands in need of confirmation.

Jews. — The persecutions to which the Jews were exposed in Europe about the middle of the fourteenth century are well known. A history of the charter of Fribourg, recently published by Dr. Schreiber, contains, among much curious matter, a *procès-verbal*, dated the 30th of January, 1349, by which it appears that all the Jews in the Brisgau were burnt on the Friday before Candlemas, in that year! This document states, that one of them admitted that he had poisoned the wells. It is difficult indeed to imagine how many absurd confessions were wrung from these miserable creatures by torture.

Cachemire Shawls. — Madame Buonaparte received from Egypt two cachemire shawls, sent to her by her husband. Mesdames Bourienne, Hamelin, and Visconti, had some also.

* A chemist at Biel has not been so fortunate with his experiments: having taken on three successive days, one, two, and three grains of phosphorus, he died in less than a week, of inflammation of the alimentary canal and spasms.

These ladies wore them merely because it was a fantastical dress—for they were thought frightful, and unfit to be adopted. Nevertheless, ere long all the women in Paris were anxious to appear in such shawls, ugly as they were; and it was a great misfortune for an *élégante* to be without one. The Empress Josephine had a passion for them, and I doubt whether any body else had so rich a collection. When at Navarre she possessed a hundred and fifty, of incomparable beauty, and of very high price. She had sent to Constantinople drawings, from which shawls were manufactured for her, equally charming to the eye as they were valuable. Every week M. Lenormand came to Navarre, and sold to her whatever he had remarkable of the kind. I have seen there white shawls, ornamented with roses, parrots, peacocks, &c., which I believe were unique in Europe. They were estimated at from 15 to 20,000 francs each. The empress also wore gowns of cachemire. One day, M. Portaless, after having admired a very beautiful one, observed that the pattern would look well on a waistcoat. Her majesty took a pair of scissors, cut up her gown, and gave the pieces to Messrs. Portaless, de Turpin, and de Vieillard-Castel. She retained only the *corsage*; which, worn with the white under-petticoat, marked still more distinctly her beautiful shape. That which with her was only a spontaneous act of gracious generosity, might have appeared an act of coquetry; for I never saw any dress become her better than this extemporaneous sacerdote. *Mémoires sur Joséphine*, tome iii.

Memorials, Monuments, &c.—We see it noticed in the Western Journals, that the inhabitants of Penzance and its neighbourhood are about to erect a monument to the memory of their distinguished compatriot, Sir H. Davy. We are also informed, that at a meeting of members of the medical department of the navy on Monday last, a subscription was entered into, for a bust to commemorate their grateful sense of the services rendered to their corps by the late Lord Melville. It is to be placed in the museum at Haslar Hospital. We wish the hint thrown out in our review of Wardrop's valuable work (page 503) might have the effect of producing some memorial of the late John Hunter.

Le Voleur, a Paris paper, of the 15th inst. says: "The celebrated Lady Morgan visited, yesterday, the archives of the kingdom. MM. Cor-Sarthe, secretary-general, and Alexandre le Noble, one of the historiographers of this noble establishment, had, in the absence of the keeper-general, the honour to conduct this lady through the institution. She appeared highly pleased with the chart of Childebert upon the bark of a tree; and with an immense roll of parchment, shewing the genealogy of the world from the creation to the period of its date, which is the fourteenth century. M. Alexandre le Noble, the young and skilful archaeologist, explained the different objects to Lady Morgan. Before she left the Palais des Archives she saw the famous iron cupboard in which are contained many treaties of peace with the Kings of England, the keys of the Bastille, the model in platinum of the *mètre* and of the *kilo*, the autograph will of Louis XVI., &c. &c. Lady Morgan was accompanied by Sir Charles Morgan and the beautiful Miss Sidney Clark, her niece. Several members of the Chamber of Deputies, some literary men, and many of the most celebrated artists, were present."

French Peerage.—The feudal origin of the French peerage was under the second race of

the kings of France. Among the characteristic circumstances of the first age of that institution was the regulation that peeresses in their own right should be entitled to sit in the high court, and to participate in its judgments. In the second age of the peerage, which dates from the year 1297, and which was marked by the elevation of the princes of the blood to the dignity of peers, under Philippe-le-Bel, took place the union of the court of peers with the court of parliament; a union which was the result, not of any law, but of usage, and the force of events. The third age of the French peerage, comprehending the period between the years 1505 and 1550, exhibited the spectacle of foreign princes invested with the dignity. Finally, during the last age, from 1550 to 1789, simple gentlemen became peers; and the first was Anne de Montmorency, constable and high steward of France. The revolution swallowed up both the peerage and the monarchy. The restoration could not revive the ancient peerage; but a new one was created; and the conservative senate of the empire seems like a kind of bond among them.—*Essai sur l'Institution et l'Influence de la Pairie en France*, par C. O. Barbaroux.

Fossil Bones.—Two caves have been discovered in the department of the Gard, in France, in which the remains of human bones are, it is said, mingled with the remains of the bones of various antediluvian animals. A letter on the subject from M. de Christol, the secretary of the Natural-History Society at Montpellier, has been referred by the French Academy to the committee already appointed to investigate the facts connected with similar caves at Bire.

William Tell.—The chief topic of conversation in Paris appears to be the new opera of *William Tell*; the first representation of which was to take place on Monday last at the Académie Royale. At the last full rehearsal, which was attended by all the amateurs and connoisseurs in Paris, after a trio by three Swiss characters, there was an enthusiastic burst of applause, the audience rising at the same time and bowing to Rossini, who was present. The other pieces of music which excited most interest, were a duet between Dabadie and Nourrit; an air by Mdlle. Cinti, beginning "Sur la rive étrangère;" and the air of the famous apple scene, "Mon fils, reste immobile." A Tyrolean chorus and characteristic dance were also much applauded.

Classical Fragments.—It is stated in a letter from Rome, that Father Angelo Mai, librarian of the Vatican, has just discovered some valuable fragments of Cornelius Nepos, Tacitus, and Sallust.

A few evenings ago I went to see *Merino's Balléro*, and was provoked with myself for being delighted. Nothing can be more *spirituel* or ludicrous than this parody on M. de la Vigne's *Marino Balléro*; in fact, no doctrinal nostrum could be equally efficacious in its effects on hypochondriacs as this *feu d'esprit* by M. Honoré Lagrappé (at least this is the name the author adopts).—*Paris Letter*.

In this season of literary famine, a work has appeared which puzzles the opinions of the literati: it is entitled, "Le Nouveau Monde industriel et sociitaire, ou Invention du Procédé d'Industrie attrayante et naturelle, distribuée en séries passées, par Charles Fourier." Some of the *cognoscenti* of the age charitably adjudge the author worthy of the highest story in Bedlam, and pronounce him the maddest of the mad; whilst others assert, that in a few centuries he will be adored as the true interpreter of the divine code.—*Paris Letter*.

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

An Account of the Early Reformation in Spain, and the Inquisition, translated from the French by the late Dr. A. F. Ramsay, with a Memoir of the Translator, will shortly appear.

Mr. Swan is preparing for publication a Demonstration of the Errors of the Human Body, founded on the subjects of the two Colonial Anatomical prizes adjudged to him by the Royal College of Surgeons.

Mr. Bowring, the editor of the German Practical Anthology, is preparing for the press a History of Germany, from the earliest period to the present time.

The Library of Entertaining Knowledge.—A translation of this very interesting work is about to appear in France.

A History of the Revolution of Spain and Portugal, as well as of the war which followed, written by Colonel Schepeler, cl-évent chargé d'affaires from the court of Berlin to that of Madrid, and translated under the author's eye, has been published at Liege. The situation in which Colonel Schepeler was placed has enabled him to enrich his work with a number of new and important documents.

Manou.—A new edition of the *Manava-Dharma-Sastra*, or the Laws of Manou, in Sanscrit, accompanied by a French translation, is at present publishing in Paris. This ancient code of legislation is very different in its character from modern codes. It regards not only the duties and rights of man in society, but his duties to the Deity and to man. Revealed to the father of the human race by Brahma, the first god of the Indian triad, it is to the Hinidox what the Pentateuch is to the Jews, or the Zend-Avesta to the followers of Ormuzd.

Alfred.—A tragedy has been published at Rome, entitled "Alfred the Great." It is written by M. J. B. Marsuji, the author of several dramatic productions. The subject is certainly a very proper one to be treated at Rome, where this great prince was educated under the guardianship of Pope Leo the Fourth, and where he acquired that intelligence, and that vigour of character, which he afterwards so admirably exhibited in his native country: but, unfortunately, M. Marsuji, instead of confining himself to the simplicity of history, has introduced into his work a number of fictitious and improbable incidents, which give it the air of a melo-drama.

In the Press.—Illustrations of the Parts concerned in the Lateral Operation of Lithotomy, with a Description of the Mode of performing it, by Edward Stanley, Lecturer on Anatomy and Physiology at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Wardlaw's Miscellaneous Sermons, 8vo. 12s. bds.—Chamber's Scottish Songs, 2 vols. royal 18mo. 12s.; post 8vo. 12s. bds.—Wyse's Catholic Association, 2 vols. 8vo. 11. 4s.—Book of the Boudoir, by Lady Morgan, 2 vols. post 8vo. 11. 1s. bds.—Meredith's King of Sweden, 8vo. 12s. bds.—The Davenells, 2 vols. post 8vo. 11s. bds.—Kearley's Tax Tables, 1829-30. 12s. second edition and tables.—A Jew's Play, 12s. 6d. bds.—Husband's Views in Wales, atlas 4to. 16. 12s. 6d. bds.—Husband's Parochial Sermons, 12mo. 2s. 6d. bds.—Mithra in the Central World, crown 8vo. 5s. bds.—Annual Register, 1828. 8vo. 16s. bds.—Chitty's Stamp Act, 1829. 12mo. 9s. bds.—Darby's Student's Algebra, 12mo. 3s. 6d. sheep.—Barker's National Reader, 12mo. 4s. 6d. sheep.—Ellen Cameron, 12mo. 5s. hf. bd.—Library of Useful Knowledge (Natural Philosophy), Vol. I. 8vo. 8s. bds.—Encyclopædia Metropolitana, second division, Mixed Sciences, Vol. I. 4to. 32. 3s. bds.—Kitchiner's Fancy's First, or Tender Trifles, post 8vo.—Guy's Exercises in English Syntax, 18mo. 1s. 6d. sheep.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL, 1829.

	July.	Thermometer.	Barometer.
Thursday	23	From 51. to 79.	30.96 to 30.09
Friday	24	49. — 77.	29.96 — 29.97
Saturday	25	59. — 80.	29.76 — 29.94
Sunday	26	54. — 69.	29.98 — 30.19
Monday	27	49. — 69.	30.12 — 30.01
Tuesday	28	38. — 70.	30.01 — 29.90
Wednesday	29	51. — 67.	29.61 — 29.66

Wind variable, prevailing S.W.
Except the 29th, generally clear; frequent heavy showers of rain.

A tremendous storm of thunder and lightning visited this neighbourhood on the morning of the 25th, from half an hour after midnight till two, the thunder scarcely ceasing, and an almost incessant flashing of lightning till near sunrise; happily, however, there was not, with the exception of a few sheep, any loss of life. During the former part of the storm the rain and hail fell in torrents, though the latter was not here sufficiently large to be so destructive as we are informed it was in the neighbourhood of St. Martin's Lane.

Rain fallen, .95 of an inch.

Edmonton. Latitude 51° 37' 32" N. Longitude 0° 3' 51" W. of Greenwich.

CHARLES H. ADAMS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Though our Journal of to-day is filled with very various subjects, we are still compelled to postpone as many miscellanies of interest as we have admitted.

We will inquire, and endeavour to answer F. A.

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